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Liberation Day to be celebrated for a week. PAGE 2
Cruz tops Tinian Jr. Sr. HS graduation. PAGE 3

Article 12 popular initiative now for '14 polls

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Proponents of the repeal of Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution are now working to place the question on the ballot in the November 2014 general elections instead of the Nov. 6, 2012 midterm polls, while the Saipan casino popular initiative has gathered less than half of the estimated 2,500 signatures needed just a few days before the June 8 deadline for submission of signatures to the Office of the Attorney General.

» Casino initiative needs more signatures to be placed on ballot

Camacho

See ARTICLE 12 on Page 4

Lack of unified stance on Social Security buyback delaying bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he is ready to introduce legislation in U.S. Congress to include the CNMI in the definition of "state" to allow a buyback into the Social Security system, but delaying such introduction is the lack of a unified stance among the administration, the House, Senate, retirees, and active members on whether they want a buyback and where the money will come from.

"When the Commonwealth as a government fully and finally make a decision on whether they want a buyback or not, the lieutenant governor will give me instruction. I will introduce legislation and include the Northern Mariana Islands in the definition of state, in Section 218 of the Social Security Act," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview on Saturday morning.

As of Friday night, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, he said, has yet to give him the go-signal to introduce such legislation.

His legislation would amend the Social Security Act's Section 218 b(1) and e(1).

Sablan said it is difficult to get everyone on board on the Social Security buyback, even after the U.S. District Court dismissed the Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing on Friday.

"They're not agreeing among themselves and they don't know where the money is coming from for the buyback," the delegate said.

Inos, who has been heading the Fitial administration's efforts in addressing the Retirement Fund crisis, including a Social Security buyback. He said initial es-

See LACK on Page 4

AT THE FLEA MARKET

Residents hunt for the best bargains at the Saturday flea market on the grounds of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. The flea market has become a popular destination for weekend shopping for new and used items at cheap prices—from kitchenware to household appliances, electronic gadgets, clothes, shoes, jewelry, bags, plants, and food.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'Central govt—not Fund, CHC, CUC—should be placed under state of emergency'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said it is the CNMI central government that should be placed under a state of emergency instead of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., as well as the NMI Retirement Fund, as the Fitial administration has planned.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, as of yesterday, has yet to issue an executive order placing the Fund under a state of emergency, days after U.S. District Court for the NMI's Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert J. Faris dismissed the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

Faris reiterated that the Fund is a "governmental unit" and not eligible for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said "it's certainly sad that the Fund took this route when other options were still available. The intent is to safeguard the assets of the Fund, so the approach should be one that would be least detrimental to the limited funding that exists."

When asked for specific reasons for placing the Fund under emergency, Demapan said "we should await the EO [executive order].

Also among the Fitial administration's plans is to place the Fund under the Department of Finance or the Office of Personnel Management, mainly to continue to disburse pensions for retirees, as well as request a five-year buyback into the

See CENTRAL on Page 4

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POLL RESULTS

Do you support the proposal for a Social Security buyback for the CNMI?

Yes	90
No	88
Undecided	11
No opinion	11

Sunday, June 3, 2012

INSIDE

NATION

The credibility of Trayvon Martin's shooter could become an issue at trial after a Florida judge said that George Zimmerman and his wife lied to the court about their finances to obtain a bond, legal experts say.

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WORLD

War hero. Savior of the nation. An anchor of stability in a turbulent region. And in the twilight of his life, a criminal convicted for his role in the deaths of those fighting to oust him.

➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

John Edwards' mistress Rielle Hunter is publishing a memoir about her relationship with the former presidential candidate and their daughter.

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Local

Liberation Day to be celebrated for a week

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Mayor Donald Flores changed his mind anew and scrapped his previous announcement regarding a one-day celebration of Liberation Day, the largest community event in the Commonwealth slated for next month, saying that the festivities will be for a week.

Citing the lack of appropriation and support from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, Flores said during a media briefing at his conference room last May 25 that the event, commemorating the liberation of Camp Susupe from the atrocities of war, will be celebrated on July 4 instead of the traditional month-long festivities.

» Flores reneges on daylong plan

But Flores, during an interview Friday, said that he has decided to go back to his earlier plan of hosting a weeklong observance of Liberation Day.

"I really want to just stay with one week that I have considered because one day, to me, is very short for this honorable day to celebrate. With the support of the [Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos] on this, I seriously considered one week," he told reporters at the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School 30th anniversary program.

Flores said the weeklong celebration will start on June 28, a Thursday, and will culminate on July 4 when the customary Fourth of July parade and program take place.

The June 28 starting date, however, still remains to be finalized since Liberation Day festivities will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base, which currently hosts the Garapan Street Market on Thursdays.

"If we cannot work together with the Street Market, then we will celebrate it [starting] Friday… [until] Wednesday. When we reach that time, we'll decide if we're going to be extending it," added Flores.

Flores

Flores disclosed that the Liberation Day committee plans to work on a $25,000 budget for the event "but we would be aggressively seeking donations and encouraging businesses to help us out."

He said this amount will come from the committee's solicitation and fundraising efforts, including one that aims to operate gambling games, patterned after Rotary Club of Saipan's Las Vegas Night, to be conducted throughout the festivities.

Flores said they also plan to ask for in-kind contributions from various government agencies. For example, they plan to borrow from the Marianas Visitors Authority the stage used at the recently concluded Taste of the Marianas and from the Hopwood Jr. High School to lend them a sound system.

There will also be additional funds generated through the fees to be charged on vendors that want to set sell their merchandise at the festival grounds or the ticket sales of the Liberation Queen candidates, he added.

"We also encourage… everybody to come and join hands and celebrate this," said Flores.

The mayor emphasized, though, that he will "not going to bother" the Legislature regarding Liberation Day funding.

"If they want to help, if they want to join the community in this important and honorable event—this is an honorable event for this island… This is an honorable even that I wish they stand up and support," he said.

According to Flores, he already has the support of Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who will work on asking regulatory agencies to waive the fees for the Liberation Day committee, which would give them "a lot" of savings.

Inos, in a separate interview, pointed out that his role in the efforts would be "to help facilitate" the waiving of fees.

"Where I come in is I want to see working with them to make sure that the cost is kept to a minimum and we can engage the private sector participation," he said.

Inos expressed his support for the week-long celebration of Liberation Day which he underlined as a tradition in the island community.

"I think that celebrating it is appropriate and I think we should all continue to do that," said Inos. "It's a tradition. The local community essentially expects that some kind of celebration would take place. I don't want to disappoint the community."

Inos called on the lawmakers to support "the one single event that majority of the people look forward to."

He cited the Legislature's efforts to provide funding for specific groups or events in the community such as the fishing derby "and it's okay." Inos noted that the Liberation Day celebration is "for the enjoyment of the entire community."

"If it doesn't take much in terms of the financial drain in the public funds when we do that [why not?]. It's for everybody," added Inos.

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Cruz tops Tinian Jr Sr HS graduation

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Antonio M. Borja

The top ten students of Tinian Junior Senior High School were feted on Friday evening along with 22 other graduates in a ceremony held at the amphitheater. TJSHS is the first public high school in the CNMI to hold their graduation exercise.

TINIAN—Senior Maegan Cruz encouraged her peers to "explore, experience, and make a difference" during Tinian Junior Senior High School's Class of 2012 commencement exercise held last Friday evening here.

Cruz, 18, who embodies academic achievement and leadership, is the Class of 2012 valedictorian. She had her sights set for college, applying at the Florida State Community College.

"We are 'key' to our own destiny in life. It's time to wake up and realize that nobody is going to strike gold in our backyard," she said in her valedictory address. "That doesn't happen to people like you and I, and for where we come from. We've go to change for the better."

"This is just the beginning (of) a huge step to bigger challenges. Let us go out now and explore, experience, and make a difference," she added.

Cruz was also named recipient of this year's Board of Education Award that was presented by no less than BOE Chair Maria Lourdes S. Ada.

Chloe Hofschneider, another active student leader, is the class salutatorian.

"Although it is a significant achievement we have reached, just keep in mind that high school is just a stepping stone for a greater path in our lives. It is a time where we find out who we want to be, what we want to be, and the person that we are destine to be," Hofschneider said in her address.

Thirty-two graduates received their diplomas here on Friday evening, in a ceremony that saw the attendance of key government leaders. They include acting governor Eloy S. Inos, U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan who joined Ada and PSS officials led by Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan.

The Tinian Legislative Delegation and Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz also joined this community in the ceremony held at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheatre.

Third honor is Mary Mendiola Hocog, the Board of Education Student Representative.

U.S. Delegate Sablan presented her a special recognition to Hocog for being one of the only two CNMI students who qualified to the elite Gates Millennium Scholarship Program.

Inos named salutatorian Hofshnieder as this year's recipient of the Governor's Award.

Rounding the top ten are Ervin John Cruz, 4th honor; Richeena Farrell, 5th honor; Richelle Padre, 7th honor; Thomelane Mendiola, 8th honor; Kenneth Cruz, Jr., 9th honor and Mario Alo, 10th honor.

Man accused of filing false statement to get new passport, to plead guilty

A Tinian resident who is facing an indictment in federal court for allegedly filing false statement to get a new U.S. passport, has signed a plea deal with the U.S. government.

On Friday, assistant U.S. attorney Ross K. Naughton notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI regarding Geoffrey Kim Cabrera's plea agreement with the U.S. government.

With the plea bargain, Naughton asked the court to vacate the jury trial date and instead set Cabrera's case for a change of plea hearing on June 19 at 1:30pm.

Under the plea agreement, Cabrera agrees to plead guilty to count 1 of the indictment charging him with false statement in an application for U.S. passport.

The U.S. government agrees to recommend to the court that the defendant receive a sentence at the lowest end of the guidelines imprisonment range deemed applicable by the court.

According to the indictment, on Feb. 12, 2010 Cabrera submitted a written application for a U.S. passport from the U.S. Department of State.

Cabrera allegedly falsely stated in the application that his most recently issued U.S. passport had been lost during a sea travel on board a small vessel.

The indictment alleged that the statement was false as the passport had not been lost, but instead the defendant surrendered it to the CNMI Superior Court on Dec. 23, 2009, as a condition of his pretrial release in the 2009 criminal case.

In May 2011, a Superior Court jury came back with a not-guilty verdict on Cabrera as to the charge of sexual abuse in the second degree. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The Air Force and Marine Corps will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on June 2-8 from 8am to 11:59pm. The Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on June 2-8 from 8am to 11:59pm. The public-especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators-are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

Early dismissal at TES

Tanapag Elementary School will dismiss its students at 12pm from June 4 to 12. For more information contact the main office at 664-3425/26/27. ***(PR)***

Kagman High end of the school year schedule

Kagman High School will be dismissing students early from May 31 through June 11. KHS students will be dismissed at 1pm following lunch.

- June 1: KHS students will be released at 1pm due to final exams.
- June 5: Annual awards ceremony at 9am. On this day, the awards for the graduates will be announced, from the presidential awards to the scholarship recipients.
- June 6: Dismissal for all students is at 1pm following lunch. Graduation ceremony starts at 3:30pm. All Kagman High School families are invited to witness the completion of this year's senior class. Parking is limited so get there early! Tents will be set up for shade; however, it is recommended to bring drinking water to stay hydrated during the ceremony.
- June 7: Kagman High Sports Appreciation Day.
- June 8: Report cards will be sent home with students.
- June 11: Official last day of the school year.

Red Cross trainings set

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will be conducting the following Health & Safety training at its training room located on Airport Road:

- First Aid: Wednesday, June 6, and Thursday, June 21, 6pm-9pm
- Adult CPR/AED: Tues., June 5, and Wed., June 20, 6pm-9pm
- Pediatric CPR/AED: Sat., June 16, 8am-11am

Pre-registration is required at least 24-hours prior to training date. A $70 course-fee is required to participate in these trainings. Two-year certification cards are issued at end of training. Register by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or visiting www.redcross.org/training. For more information, contact the local chapter at 234-3459. (PR)

Fee waivers for NMC Tinian Cash for College workshop participants

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's upcoming "Cash for College" workshop on Tinian will qualify to receive fee waivers for the NMC admissions application fee and placement test fees which is a savings of $75.

The free workshop will be held on Friday, June 8, 2012, at the NMC Tinian Instructional Site in Room D. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by any time between 9am and 1pm.

The aim of this workshop is to assist students and their parents in maximizing scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education.

Participants will also be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Tinian Municipal Scholarship, the CNMI Scholarship, and more.

It is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from their high school, tax forms, and proof of CNMI residency for 2010 and 2011, including proof of continuing residency.

For additional information, call NMC at 433-0657/0649 or email mariaa@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

ARTICLE 12

From Page 1

"We know it's an uphill battle, we're very doubtful that we'd make it to the midterm elections. Our goal is to have it placed on the ballot during the general election," Citizens for Change of Article 12 president Efrain F. Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Article 12 of the NMI Constitution restricts landownership in the CNMI only to persons of Northern Marianas descent, or NMDs.

Camacho said they are aiming for a little over 7,000 signatures for the general elections.

"We will continue our efforts in educating the public about Article 12," he added.

David M. Sablan, treasurer for CCART 12, separately said on Saturday they were able to gather less than 3,000 signatures but they will have the exact number by today.

Both Camacho and Sablan expressed disappointment that the Legislature chose not to pass legislative initiatives on Article 12 so that the question on whether or not Article 12 should be retained or repealed will be placed before voters.

"A popular initiative, which CCART 12 has been pursuing, is far more difficult than having a legislative initiative passed by the House which has 20 members and the Senate which has nine members," Sablan said.

Camacho, for his part, said it is "unfortunate" that lawmakers, by not passing Article 12 legislative initiative, didn't give voters a chance to decide on the matter.

"The Legislature does not have confidence in the public because they did not allow them to decide on it," he said. "The legislators want us to go the hard route."

Camacho said the Senate's rejection of Senate President Paul Manglona's (Ind-Rota) Senate Legislative Initiative 17-10 does not mean the issue is "dead."

"It's dead for them, but not for the public which is us, so we will continue educating the public about Article 12," he added.

CCART 12, according to Camacho, has been requesting the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to hold a forum wherein proponents and opponents of the repeal of Article 12 could argue their positions.

Both supporters and opponents of a repeal of Article 12 use the phrase "for the protection of NMDs" to argue their point.

But CCART 12 said current NMDs are already losing their land because of the blood quantum requirement, and future generations will lose their right to own or inherit land from their parents if blood quantum continues to be diluted.

"So how is Article 12 protecting an NMD that is less than 25 percent bloodline?" CCART 12, referring to many NMDs marrying outside the Chamorro/Carolinian bloodline and whose children will not be able to own lands passed on to them by their parents and ancestors.

Casino initiative

Proponents of a popular initiative seeking to legalize casino gambling on Saipan are also having difficulty gathering signatures to place the question on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Dr. Jack Angello said they have so far gathered some 1,000 signatures, which is still far from the required 2,500 or so signatures from Saipan voters.

Angello said they will be submitting the signatures to the OAG on Thursday, a day before the June 8 deadline. That's because June 8 is an austerity Friday.

He said the group would have the exact number of signatures today when their supporters turn in their signature packets.

Angello said they will be gathering signatures for the casino petition again tomorrow, Tuesday, at 5pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

"If people are really concerned about the economy, I hope they support and sign the petition. I hope people see that it's now crunch time," he said.

Angello said they are not giving up hope that the casino petition will gather more signatures between now and Thursday.

June 8 deadline

The Office of the Attorney General said that the deadline for submitting a petition to propose an amendment to the Constitution to the attorney general is 150 days before the general election, pursuant to NMIAC § 5-50-201.

"This year, the general election is on Nov. 6; 150 days before that date is Saturday, June 9. If the normal deadline falls on a Saturday, then the deadline is the immediately preceding business day. NMIAC § 50-50-601. Thus, a petition to propose an amendment to the Constitution must be submitted to the Attorney General on or before Friday, June 8, 2012," said assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan in a response letter to resident Ruth Tighe.

But because June 8 is a Friday, and most government offices are closed on that day because of austerity, proponents of the Saipan casino initiative will submit the signatures on Thursday.

The attorney general has 30 days to determine how many valid signatures the petition contains and to provide notice to the submitting party of his determination, the OAG said.

If the petition has a sufficient number of signatures to satisfy the constitutional requirements, but the attorney general is unable to certify a sufficient number of the signatures, the submitting party shall have an additional 10 days to submit additional signatures to support the petition, pursuant NMIAC § 5-50-240, the OAG said.

If the petition does not have a sufficient number of signatures to satisfy the constitutional requirements, however, the submitting party shall not have any additional time to submit supporting signatures, the office said.

Moreover, if the submitting party is given additional time to submit additional signatures, the NMIAC does not set a time frame in which the attorney general must certify the additional signatures, the OAG said.

However, the attorney general must submit a written certification to the Commonwealth Election Commission, indicating whether the petition meets the constitutional requirements at least 90 days before the general election. § 5-50-501.

"Thus, if a submitting party is given additional time to gather signatures, the Attorney General must certify the additional signatures by Aug. 8, 2012," the OAG added.

CENTRAL

From Page 1

U.S. Social Security system for active members.

Dela Cruz said the central government and its departments and agencies have not been paying their obligations to CUC, CHC and the Fund, and these unpaid obligations are among the major reasons why these agencies were placed or will be placed under a state of emergency.

The government has some $300 million debt to the Fund, for unpaid employer contributions.

Fitial cited over $8 million in unpaid obligations by the "cash-strapped government, the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp." as among the reasons for placing CUC under a state of emergency again.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the central government recently made payments to CUC and does not owe much CUC; he said it is PSS and CHC that have more unpaid obligations to the utilities agency.

CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta said the additional $7 million line of credit bill, once signed into law, could help CHC pay its utilities.

Babauta reiterated his call for the government—the Legislature and the Executive Branch—to provide a $10-million subsidy to CHC in fiscal year 2013 and onwards mainly for the hospital to continue to provide services to the indigent population.

Inos said last week that the administration is poised to sign that line of credit bill, but is again checking with the Marianas Public Land Trust if this is still acceptable.

LACK

From Page 1

timate is that $60 million will be needed for a five-year buyback, inclusive of employee and employer contributions.

Inos has been meeting with lawmakers and retirees, and plans to also meet with active members, on the issue. Retirees and active members have different views about the buyback.

Some lawmakers, especially those supporting an override of the governor's veto of House Bill 17-226, are not fully convinced that a buyback legislation will be that easy so they want active members of the Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan to be able to withdraw up to 50 percent of their contributions now.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said even the delegate cannot guarantee how long his proposed legislation would move in Congress.

But Sablan said "we need to start somewhere."

"Again, the Commonwealth government needs to fully and finally make a decision on whether they want the buyback for Social Security and once they do that, then I will work with Congress in trying to amend Section 218 [of the Social Security Act] to allow for this buyback. The buyback cannot be for more than six years. But even doing this, we need to know where the money is going to come from," Sablan added.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Senate leadership supports a Social Security buyback for many active members, but cautioned that doing so is just one of the many steps that needed to be taken to also protect current retirees.

"A Social Security buyback is a good idea under the circumstances. But that's only addressing about one-third of the problem. What about the retirees? I say it again, we need to go back to Judge Kenneth Govendo's June 15 deadline to come up with solutions to help the Fund extend its lifespan," Manglona said in a phone interview.

He reiterated the passage of pending initiatives and bills to help the Fund, many of whom, he said, are now with the House.

Manglona also recommends that House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), author of HB 17-226, also pass a bill that would cut tax rebates by 20 percent, to accompany the override of HB 17-226.

The House failed to override the governor's veto of HB 17-226 on Thursday because it lacked three votes to meet the 14 votes required.

Cabrera, in a separate interview, said he will call for another session to reconsider vote on the bill's override.

Sablan said he doesn't see disagreement between the Legislature and the administration on returning the contributions of the Fund's active DB members.

"And I also think that because of the Retirement Fund, in the situation it is today, I also think that these people should get their money back. Having said that, there is a concern and I asked some DB members themselves about the concern that there won't be a safety net for them. And that the defined contribution plan alone is not enough. So getting back into Social Security prospectively would be great for brand new employees, but for those who have been in the system for some time, a buyback would be a necessary thing to do," he added.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), one of those opposed to an override of HB 17-226's veto, said the bill should be amended to ensure that the other 50 percent of the members' contributions will go toward Social Security instead of a DC plan.

He said he and others who voted against the override will support that amendment to HB 17-226.

DO NOT PROVIDE ALCOHOL TO MINORS UNDER 21!
HELP KEEP OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SAFE!

A message from the CNMI Youth Advisory Council and the Juvenile Justice Task Force. Made possible by a grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS • EDUCATION • HOPE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and other social and human service providers will honor our citizens who are living with and beyond cancer. June 1 to June 8 will be observed as the 2012 Commonwealth/National Cancer Survivors Week-Day and will host events throughout the week. We urge all cancer survivors to join in this joyous celebration of life.
The theme for this week's celebration is:

"Rainbow of Hope"

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, June 4		Educational Field Trip to Hospital
Wednesday, June 6	7:00 p.m.	John Gonzales Talk Show
Friday, June 8	5:30 p.m.	Cancer Survivors Support Group Gala, Raraina Room, Aqua Resort Club, Saipan

This week provides an opportunity for all of our people living with a history of cancer to connect with each other, celebrate milestones, and recognize the healthcare providers, family, and friends who have supported them along the way.

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For more information, please contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or send email to cca@ccamarianas.org

KNOWLEDGE HOPE INSPIRATION

This ad was brought to you by the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Healthcare Corp. COO Phillips' contract expires

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. did not renew or extend the employment contract of chief operating officer James Phillips.

Juan N. Babauta, chief executive officer of the corporation, confirmed in a phone interview yesterday that he made that decision and signed on May 31 a memorandum informing Phillips of his end of contract.

» 'He did not deliver on his promises'

Phillips' last day to work was last Thursday and was given thereafter a two-week leave with pay.

"I hired him for six months, he served the six months. I thanked him for his service and I gave him two-week notice with pay," Babauta said.

Calls made by *Saipan Tribune* to Phillips were unreturned as of press time yesterday.

Asked if the corporation had the option to renew or extend Phillips' contract, Babauta said, "It was for six months. I had the option three months ago to terminate it if I wanted to but it was for six months and he served the six months."

When requested to describe Phillips' performance during his contract, Babauta replied "I don't want to go into that."

According to Babauta, he initiated with the corporation board discussions about Phillips' employment "weeks and months ago."

"The board knew that this decision was coming and it was not a surprise," he added.

Board chair Joaquin Torres, in a separate phone interview, confirmed that Babauta brought up Phillips' contract to his attention.

"He mentioned it to me and to [board member] Roy [Rios]. I don't know about the others whether he did discuss that with them," said Torres.

Torres noted, however, that he has yet to see Phillips' contract so he wouldn't know the terms or the expiry date, which makes him uncertain if the contract was terminated or not renewed.

According to Torres, he was not satisfied with Phillips' performance as COO of the corporation. Initially, he was "pretty impressed" with what Phillips brought to the table regarding his plans to turn the hospital around in terms of revenue.

Torres said Phillips discussed putting together a coding, billing, and collections team for the Commonwealth Health Center "before the ICS came along," referring to the Idaho-based company sole-sourced to provide billing and collection services for the island's lone hospital.

The contract, however, was deemed not lawful by the Office of the Attorney General which issued a cease and desist order barring ICS and the corporation to proceed with the deal that is currently under investigation.

"I thought he was doing okay in the beginning but then later on, he was not delivering on the things that he promised," said Torres. "I think there was some dissatisfaction on the performance. What he says and what he delivered were miles apart."

Torres said he would recommend hiring another individual to fill the vacated post. "I would support hiring of a person who has prior experience in a hospital environment. There's budget for Mr. Phillips, there should be budget for his replacement."

Asked if there are plans to find a replacement for Phillips, Babauta said he plans to fill the position "eventually."

"It depends on our financial situation," he added.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 05, 2012 through June 28, 2012 (Monday to Thursday) or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., June 28, 2012.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to strengthen our Program Integrity, the CNMI WIC Program would like to inform the General Public to report suspicious activities from WIC vendors and/or participants committing Fraud and Abuse by contacting the Quality Assurance Coordinator, Mr. Ponce Rasa at (670) 664-4068 and (670) 285-4068 or email at poncer@cnmiwic.org and the Vendor Management Coordinator, Mr. Fabian Ulloa at (670) 664-4066 and (670) 285-4073 or email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Remember all tips or reports are kept confidential and callers may choose to remain anonymous.

USDA is an equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

SDA School celebrates 30th anniversary

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School marked three decades of providing Christian education to students on island last June 1 with a celebration highlighting the school's achievements and the folks who have played a vital role in the school's success through the years.

Friday's event kicked off past 9am with a motorcade involving Saipan SDA School students on board school buses and private vehicles bedecked with balloons in green and white, the proud colors of the school whose elementary campus is located in San Antonio across from Afetnas Square.

The motorcade passed through Koblerville then As Lito before going downhill past the Northern Marianas College campus then navigating along Beach Road to go back to its starting point where the anniversary program was held.

Besides the management, staff, students, and parents of Saipan SDA School, other SDA officials, government dignitaries, and other school supporters were also in attendance to commemorate the school's significant milestone.

Pastor Louis Torres, president of the Guam-Micronesia Mission of SDA, congratulated the Saipan SDA School for 30 years of "making an impact and having an influence" among its student population.

Citing the importance of Christian education, Torres said that the reason why private schools offer better education than the public schools is that the former has "the privilege and freedom to talk about God."

Torres, who shared that he got into gangs when he attended public schools, said it was a "blessing" for him to support Christian education for 42 years and counting.

"As parents, we want our children to do well. In providing spiritual and academic excellence, we are able to provide the best we can for our children," added Torres, noting that children "are a gift of God."

Having been a product of a private and faith-based school himself, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos attested to the quality of education from institutions "where academic and character development" are both valued and where students learn the "valuable" lessons of citizenship, character and faith.

"The story of SDA is also one of faith," said Inos. "You had a vision to enrich this community through education. After 30 years of growth, your small seed of faith has grown into a tree that is bearing fruit in our community. You have proven what can be done with vision and hard work."

Inos urged the Saipan SDA School to help the administration's vision of a Commonwealth of "good-paying jobs, quality education, excellent healthcare, safe neighborhoods, strong families, and much more" a reality through prayers for wisdom and strength.

"May your educational legacy live on in the Commonwealth," he added.

Robin Lizama Palacios, an alumna who works with the Public School System, recounted her time at Saipan SDA School where she learned "many foundational skills that have assisted me throughout my education which led to my success and accomplishments."

Palacios, now a doting mother of three, said that she also enrolled her children at Saipan SDA School so they, too, can get quality education and have the opportunity to earn "valuable life skill."

Ronald Sablan, a parent of a current student, said he chose Saipan SDA school so his child will know about values "in a learning environment we felt made our parental responsibilities more manageable."

Sablan added that he has faith and confidence in the institution which takes focus on "quality and fine education" through its national school programs and helps build a non-competing learning environment with diversity "for a better understanding of the small world around us."

U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan congratulated Saipan SDA School and presented a plaque to principal Michael Berglund. The plaque, however, will have to be altered since it bears 25th anniversary commendation, as Sablan was told.

"I applaud the role that each of you have played in the accomplishments of this school and I look forward to seeing you all build from those accomplishments to achieve even greater successes over the next 30 years for yourselves and for all of us here in the Northern Marianas," he said in his remarks.

Mayor Donald G. Flores, for his part, recognized that the Saipan SDA School is based on biblical principles. "You have come a long way and I salute you for the hard work you have done in teaching our children God's word and that applying such wisdom is necessary for everyday living."

"It is so important to have education that is based on Christian values and principles and we are so pleased to be able to provide that by God's grace… Providing this education would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of the principals, teachers, and support staff," said Dr. Ken Pierson, clinic director of SDA Dental Clinic, in his closing remarks.

Students of Saipan SDA School performed intermission numbers during the program. Healthy lunch was served following Friday's event.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

A young male student of the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School waves to the camera before the start of the motorcade which kicked off the school's 30th anniversary celebration last Friday.

Ex-CUC board member allegedly molested minor girl

An arrest warrant has been issued against a former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member for allegedly molesting a 16-year-old girl, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

Sources at the Department of Public Safety disclosed that a Superior Court associate judge issued over the weekend an arrest warrant for the suspect with a bail of $25,750 cash.

As of press time, it was not yet clear whether DPS had already served the arrest warrant to the defendant.

Sources said the charges are sexual abuse of a minor, indecent exposure, and disturbing the peace.

Saipan Tribune opted not to divulge the suspect's identity until there is confirmation from authorities that he is already served with the arrest warrant. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) , in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 35.912, are announcing that a public hearing will be held regarding the state priority lists for both drinking water and wastewater projects eligible for funding under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "State Revolving Fund" construction grant program. The proposed priority lists are available for public review any time during regular working hours at the CUC Engineering Office, located on the third floor of the Joeten Building in Dan Dan, Saipan. The lists were developed in accordance with the CNMI's priority ranking systems, on the basis of a number of factors including the affected population served by each project, the degree to which public health and the environment would be protected, and a number of other factors which may also be reviewed, upon request, at the CUC Engineering Office. Electronic copies of the lists and scoring criteria may also be obtained by sending an e-mail to brian.bearden@cucgov.org, or larry.manacop@cucgov.org.

The public hearing will be held at the DEQ Main Conference Room at the Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, at **noon (12:00 p.m.) on Monday, June 18, 2012**. For additional information, please contact the CUC Water and Wastewater Engineering staff at 235-7025 through -7030.

ALAN FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

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**Subject to credit approval. United MileagePlus cardholders will receive one mile for every $1.00 of net purchases and one additional mile per $1 of qualifying ticket purchases, made directly from United. Apply by June 30, 2012 and if you are approved, receive 5,000 MileagePlus bonus miles upon account opening, 15,000 MileagePlus bonus miles with your first purchase by September 30, 2012 and an additional 10,000 MileagePlus bonus miles when you spend $1,000 within the first 4 months of account opening. Please allow six to eight weeks after completed qualifying activity for bonus miles to be posted to your MileagePlus account.

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Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas

The People's Party: Rebuilding the Commonwealth

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 31 and June 5, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.,

Conference Room next to Herman's Bakery, Airport Road.

The Central Executive Committee invites men and women who wish to run for public office in the 2012 election to attend party.

MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION DRIVE

June 9, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00

Kilili Pavilion, Beach Road, Susupe

HOT LUNCH FUND-RAISING

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Kilili Pavilion, Beach Road, Susupe

The Central Executive Committee invites the general public to attend, register and become a member of the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas. For more information, call Chairman Edward Manibusan at 235-6520, email at: emlaw@pticom.com, Vice Chairman Jesse Borja at 234-8848, email at: jesus.borja.tuhu@gmail.com, Secretary, Jonathan Cabrera at 989-7050, email at: jonc51@gmail.com, or Juan Pan Guerrero at 483-1726 or email at jtgpan@aol.com or visit us at Facebook http://www.facebook.com/CNMIDemocrats.

This ad is paid for by the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 501521 SAIPAN, MP 96950, TEL:(670) 322-6538 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY'12 Third General Membership on Thursday, June 07, 2012 at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Roll Call by SRC Secretary
III. Review and adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and adoption of the FY '12 Second Meeting Minutes (03/06/12)
V. Reports
- a. OVR Director
- b. Sub-Committee Chairpersons
- c. SRC Chairperson
  -Trip Reports

VI. Old Business
- a) Draft FY 2013 State Plan
- b) Review OVR MOA with agencies (PSS/SpEd & NMC, etc.)
- c) Ongoing review of OVR Policies/Procedures

VII. New Business
- a. CNMI Energy Division Presentation
- b. Guam & CNMI VR/SRC Sensitivity Training for the physically, developmentally and intellectually challenged
- c. 2012 NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month) Plan

VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Isidro K. Seman
CHAIRMAN

Woman arrested in Guam facing sex trafficking charges on Saipan

A woman arrested in Guam on Friday for allegedly engaging in sex trafficking on Saipan is expected any time today, Monday, or this week to be taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI for her initial court appearance.

A check on Friday at district court showed there was no hearing yet for Chang Ru Meng Backman, who is facing three charges of sex trafficking and three counts of alien smuggling.

The *Pacific Daily News* reported that according to court documents, Backman operated Holiday Night Club, a karaoke bar located in Chalan Kanoa, where three Chinese women were allegedly duped into working as prostitutes.

The three women allegedly came to Saipan in August 2008 to work at a hotel or farm, but were instead employed at Backman's brothel.

The women allegedly entered Saipan using only visitor entry permits.

The indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Tuesday, according to Guam reports.

In December 2009, Backman's car was burglarized and her Louis Vuitton bag was stolen. The suspect was subsequently convicted and sentenced to 14 days in prison in January 2011. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CUC schedules water outage in Papago/Agag areas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is informing residents of Agag/Papago areas that there will be short water outages, possibly two to three per day over the next two weeks (May 21-June 14, 2012). The outages will be about an hour long and will take place during working hours, 730am to 430pm.

The purpose of this outage is to allow CUC and AIC Construction to make lateral connections along the ongoing waterline project in the Papago area.

This project, once complete, will allow more water to reach customers in the Papago area and will upgrade all the distribution piping in the Agag area to decrease any pressure fluctuations on CUC's water system.

CUC apologizes, in advance, for any inconvenience resulting from these projects and the water service interruption and humbly asks for the community's patience as they continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions.

Should you have any questions, call the CUC Water & Wastewater Division at 322-5030. ***(CUC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jun. 4, 1999

Manglona pleads for mercy

Senators have balked at a proposal to squeeze Sen. Herman M. Manglona to a potential liability of more than $4.5 million to be incurred by the CNMI government under a consent decree forged with the U.S. district court over a land clearing dispute on Tinian. A resolution expressing Senate sentiment that Manglona should be held personally liable for the penalty was ditched at the last minute after the embattled senator pleaded against the move, according to sources. But the Tinian senator was unperturbed, refusing to comment when asked about the Senate action. The resolution was offered by Sen. David M. Cing, from Tinian, who also declined to give statements.

Teno's son weighs legal action against 20/20

Marianas Visitors Authority Managing Director Perry John Tenorio yesterday said he is weighing his option whether to take legal action against 20/20 because of its serious implication on the promotional campaign of the tourism office. Last week the independently-produced "The Shame of Saipan" was carried by the television show in the mainland and was aired on Saipan Monday. In the report, which portrayed the island as a haven for sweatshops and prostitution, Tenorio's older brother, Michael, was mistakenly identified as the head of MVA. Video footage showed that Michael was inside a night club with his Japanese friends being entertained by bar girls.

Jun. 4, 2001

DPH asked to clarify medical referral arrangement

The Department of Public Health refused to pay the medical bills of patient escorts who suffered from health ailments and and subsequently received treatment while in Hawaii. As a result, Queen's Medical Center has asked DPH who will shoulder the expenses and urged the department to issue a clarification of existing arrangements. In a letter to DPH Secretary Kevin Villagomez, QMC Finance Vice President Rix Maurer III said the department is responsible for the cost of emergency care since it has authorized and provided financial support to patient escorts.

Legislators recommend passage of GHLITF transfer proposal

The proposed transfer of Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund to the Governor's Office has gained the support of legislators after deliberations last Friday. The House Committee on Health and Welfare recommended passage of House Bill 12-349, the CNMI Government Health and Life Insurance Improvement Act of 2001, according to legislators. Health and Welfare Chair Malua T. Peter said majority of committee members supported the transfer of the trust fund to the purview of the Governor due to numerous problems including funding deficit. The committee will relay its recommendation on June 12.

Jun. 4, 2002

Selective Service vows continued innovation

The Selective Service System released its annual state-by-state registration compliance report card with Delaware becoming the first state to reach nearly 100 percent compliance since the Agency began compiling this data. Nationally, registration compliance held fairly steady at 86 percent, down a percentage point from last year's high-water mark of 87 percent. Seven states increased registration rates by 3 percent or more, with Delaware leading the way at 9 percent. Louisiana, which historically had low compliance, saw a 2 percent increase, from 79 percent and 75 percent respectively. Localities showing reduced compliance included Vermont (4 percent), Kansas (5 percent), Nebraska (5 percent), Maine (5 percent), Rhode Island (6 percent) and the District of Columbia (8 percent).

Pangelinan sues Munson, Rotbart

Washington-based businessman John S. Pangelinan initiated a pro se civil lawsuit against District Court Judge Alex R. Munson and lawyer Charles R. Rotbart, alleging that both conspired to deprive him of his constitutional rights. The case stems from a 1997 civil suit that ended adversely for Pangelinan, after he was sued by Rotbart for fraud and violation of the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. Pangelinan, a resident of Puyallup, Washington, is praying for $1.7 million in damages against the defendants, claiming that both violated his 4th, 5th and 14th amendment rights when judgment was entered against him by Munson, upon Rotbart's proddings.

Paralyzed motorist files police brutality lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A motorist who is now paralyzed from the neck down has filed a police brutality lawsuit against a police officer and a former police officer who allegedly used excessive force in arresting him after his car crashed on the fence of Oleai Elementary School.

Alejandro L. Norita sued the CNMI government, Police Officer Jerome Reyes, former police officer Regino Celis, and 10 unnamed co-defendants who were allegedly also involved in the arrest, for assault and battery, emotional distress, violation of civil rights, negligence, unjust enrichment, and unlawful conversion.

Norita, through counsel David G. Banes, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendants to pay him at least $100,000 in damages.

Saipan Tribune yesterday tried but failed to contact Reyes and Celis for comments.

Norita requested the court to issue an injunction directing the CNMI government to implement procedures to prevent the use of excessive force, and assault of arrested persons in the future.

The plaintiff demanded the return of his car or payment of its value and loss of use, plus payment of court costs and attorney's fees.

According to Banes in the complaint, on June 1, 2010 between 8pm to 9pm, Norita was driving a 1993 Toyota Corolla by the Northern Marianas College in As Terlaje, when a police car suddenly pursued him.

Banes said Norita did not want to stop at that location because it was dark there.

The plaintiff allegedly wanted to stop at his residence in San Jose so he continually signaled the police officer to follow him at his residence by pointing forward.

When Norita was almost near his residence, he did not notice a car coming directly in front of him.

To avoid collision with that car, he turned his car to the left, slipped, and suddenly crashed on the fence of the Oleai Elementary School.

As a result of the crash, Banes said, Norita had lacerations on the forehead and abrasions under the eye and nose.

The car Norita was driving suffered moderate damage.

Reyes and Celis, who was still then a police officer, approached Norita's vehicle with Reyes having his handgun drawn.

» 2 cops allegedly used excessive force in arresting him despite figuring in car crash

Reyes and Celis saw Norita leaning on the passenger seat of the vehicle face down.

Despite Norita's injuries from the crash, Banes said, Reyes and Celis were very angry at Norita and that one of them shouted at him, "now you are going to die."

Instead of trained medics, the lawyer said, Reyes and Celis forcefully extracted and dragged Norita from his car.

"One of the officers threw him to the ground and with great force, put a knee on his back as he was being handcuffed.

The officer then kept the knee pressed into his back. After he was handcuffed, the officer lifted Norita and made him sit on the ground and lean on the officer's leg," Banes said.

Reyes and Celis then arrested Norita for reckless driving and eluding a police officer. Norita was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was treated.

Banes said Norita's lower extremities were numb and were not responding.

Banes alleged that Reyes and Celis did not know the extent of Norita's injuries as a result of the crash, however, they forcefully extracted him from the car, instead of trained medics.

As a proximate of the officers' actions, Banes said, Norita suffered injuries to his spine and is now paralyzed from the neck down, and he is now bedridden and unable to walk or stand up.

"He was also in a state of shock and was very nervous and frightened as a result of the police brutality," Banes said.

Norita lodged a complaint at the Department of Public Safety for his mistreatment and injuries.

Banes said DPS conducted an investigation but no update has been released regarding the results of the investigation.

Banes said Norita requested that DPS return the car to him, but despite repeated demands, "DPS has neglected, failed, and refused to return the car to him."

The lawyer said Norita has not been charged with any offense in connection with the incident.

"Reyes and Celis committed grave misconduct and abuse of authority when they violently extracted Norita from his car and arrested him but were not charged by the CNMI," Banes said.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

Request for Proposal
CUC-RFP-12-017:
Financial And Compliance Audit For Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2012
ADDENDUM NO. 1
Date: May 17, 2012

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendments and notifications to CUC-RFP-12-017:

➢ Extension of Proposal Submission Deadline:
One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-017, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 2012" to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM CHST on **June 15, 2012**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

➢ Extension of Inquiry Submission Deadline:
All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM CHST on **June 1, 2012** to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren @cucgov.org; and Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

ALAN FLETCHER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-017

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The date of contract award will be no later than June 30, 2012. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2013.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-017, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 2012" to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on May 29, 2012**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 14, 2012 to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren@cucgov.org; and Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROJECT BRABU

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention Unit - Project Brabu is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds, through the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) for eligible communities in the CNMI to apply. This project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Details of the grant and funds available are listed below.

I. Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG): FY2012 $400,000

The planning and implementation of this grant award will focus on four primary goals:

1.) Build Prevention Capacity and Infrastructure in the CNMI
2.) Prevent the Initiation of and Reduce Substance Abuse, Including Childhood and Underage Drinking
3.) Reduce Substance Abuse-related Problems
4.) Evaluate All Activities

The SPF SIG provides awarded communities with the opportunity to build and/or strengthen an effective and sustainable evidence-based prevention program that is responsive to the needs of the CNMI community. Community programs are required to implement evidence-based prevention programs focused on the following priorities that have been determined by Project Brabu and the State Epidemiological Workgroup (SEW):

1) Underage Drinking, and/or
2) Drinking and Driving

This grant award requires a **Strategic Prevention Framework** to help guide communities toward successful program management process following the five steps below:

1) Assessment: Accurately assess community problems, assets, and resources;
2) Capacity: Describe current capacity and/or plans to build capacity;
3) Planning: Develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan;
4) Implement: Identify the evidence-based program, policy, or practice to be implemented;
5) Evaluate: Process and impact evaluation through monitoring and documentation of program implementation.

The Project Brabu Advisory Council will make the final approval in consultation and collaboration with the SPF SIG Project Director on applications to be awarded based on a point system. The grant application guidelines detail the information required and the points under each of the sections.

All completed applications must be submitted to the CHCC: DPH Project Brabu's office on Saipan and the Prevention Coordinators on Tinian and Rota no later than 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, 2012.

Sub-Grant Application forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Project Brabu Office at the CHCC: DPH or the Substance Abuse Prevention offices on Rota and Tinian. Also, the application form and guidelines are available online at www.cgcspn.net. For more information, please contact Ms. Tiara Evangelista at 236-8740 or ti.evangelista@gmail.com (Saipan); Mr. Keith Nabors, Prevention Coordinator (Tinian) at 433-6572 or tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com; or Ms. Avery Hocog, Prevention Coordinator (Rota) at 532-9461 or projectbraburota@yahoo.com.

Pre application workshops are scheduled as follows:

- June 13 (Saipan), TBD
- June 14 (Tinian), TBD
- June 15 (Rota), TBD

These workshops will provide on-site technical assistance in discussing the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) 5-step process, the sub grant components and requirements. The workshops are available to interested community members/agencies and are free of charge.

/s/ Mr. Claudio Norita
Chairman, Advisory Council

/s/ Mrs. Reyna Saures
SPF SIG Project Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Tariff on Chinese panels would hurt solar industry

A tariff is always a double-edged weapon in international trade. Countries apply them to protect domestic producers but risk retaliation and penalize their own consumers, who must pay higher prices.

That's how things are shaping up with the 31 percent tariff the Commerce Department wants to slap on Chinese solar panels later this year. That would undercut one goal of President Barack Obama's administration—the promotion of green energy.

This dispute began with a complaint from the U.S. unit of a German company, Solar World AG, which was joined by other firms. Commerce officials later concluded the Chinese were "dumping" government-subsidized products, or selling below cost.

And how did Washington determine Chinese production costs? As a proxy, it used data from solar producers in Thailand—a method nobody could describe as precise.

Yet thanks to this convoluted process, expect the price of solar panels to rise in the U.S. market, raising costs for homeowners and businesses seeking lower-cost power. The move also threatens job losses among workers employed as solar-panel installers.

It other words, the tariff will apply not only to the Chinese producers but also, in effect, to the American buyers of those products.

(c)2012 The Kansas City Star (Kansas City, Mo.)

I JUST FLEW TO CUBA AND BACK TWO DOZEN TIMES—AND BOY, ARE MY ARMS TIRED!
HELLO? HELL-O?! IS THIS MIC ON?
THESE TEA PARTY PEOPLE HAVE NO SENSE OF HUMOR!
CONGRESSIONAL
Comedy nite
TONITE: JIM McGOVERN
Cuba
VENEZUELA
HIGH
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

The sky is falling! The sky is falling!

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

One day while Chicken Little was walking under a tree, an acorn fell on his head. Immediately he thought to himself: "The sky is falling down. I must hurry and tell the king." Along the way he met some friends named Henny Penny, Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey, and Turkey Lurkey.

They also became excited as Chicken Little told them that the sky was falling down. As they proceeded to the king's palace, they met a villain named Foxy Loxy. As Foxy heard the story from the excited group, he suggested a short cut to the king's palace. Being gullible little farm animals, they followed the fox to his cave and were never heard of again.

Another version of the story has it that they did finally get to see the king. After examining the acorn that fell on Chicken Little's head, the king told them that the sky was not falling. It was just an acorn. With these words of assurance, they all returned home happy. Which version do you prefer?

The above is a fable or a folk tale with a moral about a chicken who believes the world is coming to an end. The phrase "The sky is falling" has become a common idiom indicating a hysterical or mistaken belief that disaster is imminent. Its characters are usually animals whose words and actions reflect human behavior.

Consider the bankrupt situation we are in now and think what this ageless fable means to us today. Should we have listened to the Chicken Littles when they shouted that our stable world was starting to shake? Are we listening to them today or are they just being hysterical?

The moral to be drawn changes depending on the version. Where there is a happy ending, the moral is not to be a 'chicken' but to have courage. In other versions where the birds are eaten by the fox, the fable is interpreted as a warning not to believe everything we are told. The Chicken Little Syndrome has been defined as a sense of despair or passivity which blocks us from creating action.

We may have forgotten that the fable is about teaching courage. However in today's circumstances it could be interpreted as a cautionary political tale in which we should become aware of foreboding events. Let's see how.

In the year 2000, we were told that now that China has become a member of the World Trade Organization, our flourishing and highly profitable garment industry is in danger. It was estimated that by 2005, most of the garment factories would be leaving. And as predicated the last one closed in 2007. What action did we plan or do to minimize this devastating action during this period from 2000 to 2007? To the best of my knowledge—nothing. Did we merely think that Chicken Little was running around shouting "The sky is falling!" and shrug it off?

Yet Puerto Rico was doing over $200 million annually of U.S. military garments. Did any of our garment makers try for a piece of that action? Or were they all eager to go home to their native countries and manufacture on their turf for export to the USA, leaving us their garbage behind.

Over 11 years ago Bill Stewart, a leading economist living and working in the CNMI, told us that the Retirement Pension fund was going to be bankrupt if we didn't change what we were doing to it. Was he a Chicken Little shouting that "the sky is falling down?" Or was he forewarning us?

Then in October 2008, Malcolm D. McPhee & Associates with Dick Conway published a report entitled *The Economic Impact of Federal Laws on the CNMI*. Please read it to refresh our memories.

The report is 96 pages long. It sounds so depressing and hopeless. The only salvation is for the United States to do exactly what we want them to do which is that we must keep begging them to feed and pamper us as though we are a bunch of helpless idiots that cannot do anything for ourselves. What a defeatist conclusion!

If what the report says was true in 2008, why didn't we take some sort of action to change the events? Was the report just another "The sky is falling!" alarm written by modern day Chicken Littles?

Repeatedly I keep saying that most of our small businesses are owned and operated by outsiders. Why does that continue? Why are almost 100 percent of our construction workers nonresidents? I thought there was a labor law that stated that any government job whether local or federal must have a 30 percent resident labor force. Am I wrong? If I am right why isn't it being enforced?

Why aren't we insisting that food stamp recipients learn a skill and get a job to replace non-resident workers? There over 11,000 of them. What a potential local labor force! Why are we pleading for an extension of December 1214 date? When will we be able to do our own work? Are we truly that weak and dependent on outsiders for our daily bread? If so, I feel sad that we have become a nation of emasculated and whining people.

As an example of how we can help ourselves. In a few weeks a new industry will begin, owned and operated wholly by local farmers. Yes, a brand new USDA approved abattoir is ready to supply our community and for export with fresh pork. Come join in either as a supplier of pigs or a shareholder and, of course, as a consumer. Everyone who believes in helping ourselves is welcome.

Then in about another month, a new air cargo company will begin asking all farmers to begin planting much produce and fruits for export. For the first year the company is planning to export at least 200,000 to 300,000 pounds of fresh produce monthly grown among the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota for export to Guam and other countries.

See FALLING on Next Page

Zuckered

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

In a country where entrance exams determine one's placement at a university, many students relate similar rationale for choosing major subjects. On the advice of either schoolteacher or parent(s), they study the prescribed course after entrance ranking is determined, secure a degree, and hope to land a job.

Rude awakening happens on the third year as acquiring a degree involves more anxious nights than anticipated, nor is the availability of a position even remotely secured once a degree is gained. A government job is a preferred choice in China like elsewhere but last year's civil service exam for some 1400 public administration positions had 600,000 qualified and certificated applicants.

Merit is not always operative in employment, the old practice of "who you know" is still in vogue. Paying off someone for a position in the workplace, in cash and/or fealty, happens more frequently than acknowledged.

Acquisition of wealth fuels education, most of which is tailored towards passing standardized tests. Bottom line is earning enough money to pay for a house so parents would not be in want, as well as to procure a car and, hopefully, to raise a family with, at least, one child.

Since most of the students are sole offspring, they are in turn grateful for the efforts of parents to get them educationally ahead. There is chaste resolve to earn enough, although finance majors have RMB-laced dreams in Shanghai and Shenzhen's glitter of stocks and securities, funds and derivatives. Bill Gates (Microsoft), Steve Jobs (Apple), Warren Buffet (Hathaway), are known among bright-eyed wealth chasers. A good turn at chance plays in the stock market, ma jong tables define Sino habits.

Mark Zuckerberg of social networking Facebook skipped university education to earn his bundle, and marrying his newly MD-graduated Chinese-descent girlfriend makes him a household name among the ambitious young ones, never mind that his company is barred by the censors (can be bypassed for $8/mo.) and its IPO suffered a botched initial offering with a bloated price that is still heading south.

While unequal distribution of wealth continues to be a global concern, determining what constitutes assets now merits close scrutiny. With the public sector debt in the industrialized nations having gone ballistic and expected never to be actually paid in real terms, the practice of keeping debts as assets in the books is illusory, at best. At worst, we assess and balance our books on phantom wealth.

Facebook is valued at $100 billion making Zuckerberg and his bride easily worth close to $20 billion. However, social networking's revenue stream comes from advertising; earnings are more from hype than actual production of tangible value. Facebook's 900 million members are considered potential buyers of goods and services, but not unlike treating my debt as part of my assets rather than my liabilities, the promise of possible future purchases on the click of a mouse is not exactly a genuine bankable commodity.

The startling statistics of 1 percent of the world's population owning 40 percent of financial assets is staggering. Derek Bok, former President of Harvard, once used the 15/85 divide between the affluent and the desperate as the moral contradiction of the '70s. It seems that the gap has gotten worst. In current OWS rhetoric, the image used pits the 1 percent wealthy versus the lowly 99 in asset distribution, a figure, perhaps, rooted more on metaphor than statistics, but has, nevertheless, the existential appeal of authenticity.

The oil barons determined war and peace in the last century and a half. The richest woman in the world today is a lady who has access to Australia's natural resource needed to fuel industry. The fear over China's economic muscle, aside from cheap labor and a rapid learning curve, is its developed supply of rare earth minerals used to manufacture electronics. The United States meanwhile seems content to cook the books and provide financial services around the world.

The strength of the U.S. dollar as the global currency of exchange has waned. The paramount position of Western financial management is rapidly eroding. Tokyo and Beijing recently inked the first agreement on Yuan/Yen direct exchange, bypassing the once-upon-a-time sovereign oversight of the mighty dollar.

The reported salary paid to Wall Street CEOs a year after Uncle Sam bailed out American business is staggering, with the shocking surprise on the number of $200,000 income earners who found ways to evade taxes.

It is time for Main Street to reclaim what Wall Street avariciously mangled. To their credit, Gates, Buffett, and Zuckerberg are grand philanthropists, giving way beyond the 10 percent allowable tax deduction to charity. Buffett in fact ceded 99 percent of his wealth to the Gates' Foundation. But philanthropy is not equity. Equitable distribution of wealth will happen when we value sweat equity on the asset side of ledger as much as what we pay the vested pencil pushers who keep the books.

Bien saludu para i sindaluta

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Gi mapos na semana selebrasion Memorial Day gi enteru iya America. Un' ma'gas na ha'ane maseñala para todu sindalu ni man-dimalas gi gera deste antes. Estague' na sudadanu i umatotga suprimu na sakrifisiu pot para una' fan libre hit diariu.

Man-gai familia, asagua yan famaguon, ni madiñgu pot para u madefende interes tanu' niha gi katkuet gera. Ni unu sumeha. Konsidera 'an dinanche i prohimu bala ya duru mahag'ga' sinparat. I mediku yan infetmera todu atte machogue' para u mana' la'la' lau dimalas.

I lagu' i asaguaña sige milalag sinparat gi entalu' kulot patte agaga' na bandera siha ni man-mapega gi otru ata'ut ni parehu man-dimalas. I plaset 'nai man-mahafot ha signifiifika un' likidu na hatdin pas ya pisun linibre pot sakrifisiun niha. Si Yuus Maase'!

Gi todu pot todu, kada sindalu unu ha' gaige gi inagañgña gi halom estrakada, "A`Saina ayuda-yu'". Ta tayuyute siha yan familian niha sa' mamirese gineftau bendision ginen i korasonta pot suprimu na sakrifisiu ni machule' pot para tafan libre.

■■■

Dibinan man-ritirau

Sige man-adulalag i administrasion, lehislatura yan aktibu na membron progeraman man-ritirau gi oriyan sasyan gi disposision kontribusion membro.

I administrasion ha disidi, sin konsimienton i membro, na para u transfere i los prohimos halom gi sisteman US Social Security. Ha nesessita i salape' membro pot siakassu man-masede man-mamahan halom gi un' programa 'nai siña mañaunau siha.

Komprendiyon i intension, lau kau man-mafaisen i membro pot intension para umana' fañaunau gi USSS? Huñgan, mauleg na intension lau kau i yinauyau pot ti man-malagu' i membro mañaunau?

I para u fañaunau gi USSS ha sedi i membron man-gai keble para apas i mas man-presisu siha na nesessidat 'an man-ritirau. Yangin ti man-halom pues siha u kinatga futtunan niha gi hafa mana' sahñge para 'an man-mattu gi idat 65 años.

Pagu yan maulegña siha gi disposision kontribusion niha mismu, pues debi umakonbinse i administrasion yan lehislatura ni intension niha dibuenamente.

Guaha programa gi papa' USSS ni siña mañaunau i man-aktibu na membro. Estague' un' appottunidat ni debi uma-esplika ni USSS. Seguruyu' na yangin makomprende kabales, siempre faborable na disision u huyuñg ginen aktibu na membro.

Gi pagu, kulan todu atmos banda mamomokat gi hilu' trosun ais 'nai man-hasulon pot taya' kabales na infotmasion ginen USSS gi hafa 'nai siña mañaunau i aktibu na membro. Pinasensia yan esplikasion pot este na programa debi u satba maseha hafa na dinida gi membro.

Ti tuñgu'un haf' mamamaila'

Animu i che'luhu mananom yan mamogsai. Trabiha pa'gu ha tututuhon offisiun tradision. Macho'chu' gi halom hatdin deste oga'an esta'i minachum atdau. 'An pupueñge hu dañae' gi man-grasiosu siha na konbetsaion. Dispues de mañgahulu' yan man-mamatkilu i pinegsai siha gi sagan niha nai hu tulusyu tatte giya hame.

Sumen na' trañkilu hinassu i silensiu yan gatbu na minachom atdau, i aninenñg ramas troñku kontra i diffirientes kulot mapagahes gi sanlagu yan uttimu katen pajaru gi lañget. Mas un' siente i fina' lanchu 'nai guaha dispasiu na asu ginen kusinan sanhiyuñg. Esta na'mahalañg 'an ha kone hit tatte gi un' poblen guma 'nai man-malulog hit sensian hinimidde yan fitme na pisun espirituat ni mañainata.

Matompu' hinasoghu 'nai sige hu adibina hafa mohon mamamaila'? Todu kinalamten guine entre mamatmos gi taya' fondu 'sino pagu madeklalara emerensiha. Klaru na taduñg na tasin chinatsaga pumalolopu' ha'anita. Hokog fondu gi kahan publiku. Gi mismu tiempu mas ti apasiyon i gaston nesessidat setbisiu siha tat kumu hinemlo'. Guaha na asuntu komprendihyon, guaha na' fatigau, yan kontodu ti satbayon.

Todu pot todu, i siklun lina'la' parehu na eku deste antes. I pañgpañg napu gi rubentasion u oppan diariu, i atdao u kahulu' gi sagaña 'an oga'an ya umachum gi pupueñge. I nesessidat i tautau tai finagtus. Gaige gi patman kanaita hafa dinisehata para futturon famaguonta. Gaige gi patman kanaita!

■■■

Sige kuentos akacha gi entalu man-amigu siha ginen Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Malabla Luta pot magotde ruplanon dikiki' gi primet biahe 'nai tumunog. Masaulag Tinian pot todu man-mamatcha maseha para i kemun sanhiyuñg. Era buente pot hinalom Marinu guine gi alacha. Mafa'um Saipan haf' na kada Bietnes pagamientu man-huyuñg i troñkun atbot siha gi Beach Road? Tabla!

■■■

Mafaisen si Pedro Malas haf' ya ti sinede as kayu para u halom gi pettan i lañget. Ilegña, "Nañga ayu na ha'ane 'nai miyon pot miyon na Chinu man-matai. Tohge gi kanton potta ya gigon sumikat si Duñg hagu halom sa' libre hau". Nañga Duñg sa' guaha ha' kameran mubi (movie) guihe hulu' lokue'. De dios!

FALLING

From Page 10

Also consider the exciting Saipan Air, the new airline to begin operations in June, the number of extra passengers coming to the CNMI. So there are people willing to take risks to improve our situation.

Are these investors dreamers? Maybe yes, maybe no. At this point the most important thing is that some of us are willing to take risks to improve our economy. You are also welcomed to join in. Please call me at 287-8310 if interested in learning more. Share your idea with me and see if we can implement it. There are many more opportunities just like the two mentioned above.

I am reminded of the inspiring words of Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of the United States:

"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget that errand."

My fellow citizens, let us get up and stand up to meet our challenges. Let us screw up our courage and work hard to dig ourselves out of this depressing pit. Remember we have acres of diamonds under our feet. Pick them up and build a new life of independence. What seems scary and uncertain is simply a transitional stage. Don't look down. Don't be a Chicken Little. The sky is not falling.

Look up and stretch out for our dreams. They can be ours when we reach out hard. Let's reach out together. Let's have faith in ourselves. We are a blessed nation with bountiful fruits. Tomorrow is a new bright future. Bless it! Embrace it!

"Come to the edge."
"We can't. We are afraid."
"Come to the edge."
"We can't. We will fall."
"Come to the edge."
And they came.
And he pushed them
AND THEY FLEW!
(By Guillaume Apollinaire, French poet and philosopher)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fond memories of Saipan

In browsing the Internet, I came across the *Saipan Tribune* and the article about when tourism started on Saipan and I started thinking about the time I spent with my parents and brothers on Saipan (lived in San Antonio) during the early 1970s and remembered the great times my family had there.

We had a choice to live on Capital Hill but chose to live in San Antonio where we could be closer to the beach and the island life. I remember going almost daily to the Royal Taga Hotel (the only hotel on the island at the time) and swimming out to the two Sherman tanks in the lagoon and boonie-stomping in the woods for World War II relics.

We swam and climbed the walls at the Grotto and we would camp at Wing Beach (a name we gave it because there was nothing on the beach but an old fighter aircraft wing). I can remember the elevator at the Royal Taga Hotel, which was a tourist attraction. People would come from miles around just to get a chance to ride up and down on the elevator.

My time on Saipan gave me a special grasp on what the "rest of the world" was like and really cherished the people on the island who gave me memories I will never forget. I hope to get there again.

Dwane Clifford
Corinth, Texas

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86º ▼78º	▲86 º ▼78º	▲87º ▼78º	▲87º ▼78º	▲87º ▼78º

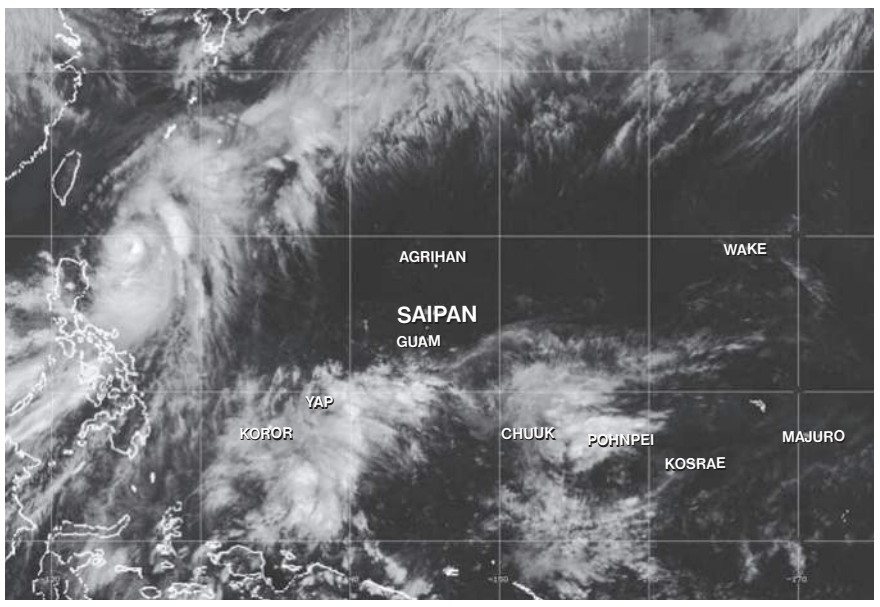
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲90	▼64
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼72
London	Rain	▲58	▼44
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Melbourne	Rain	▲56	▼48
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼75
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼58
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼66
Paris	Showers	▲61	▼45
Pusan	Cloudy	▲74	▼64
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲74	▼60
Salem	Cloudy	▲65	▼52
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66	▼56
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼62
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼65
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging low-level winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Okinawa west of a line from 25N139E to 19N136E to 16N130E. JTWC invest area 97W is centered southeast of Koror at 4N137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen over the Republic of Koror and Yap state between the equator and 12N from 132E to 141E and within 130 miles of a line from 12N143E to 7N143E. A trade-wind disturbance is coupling with divergent upper-level winds to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk and east of Pohnpei between the equator and 12N from 149E to 158E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers northwest of Kwajalein within 100 miles of a line from 9N163E to 10N167E and southeast of Majuro within 125 miles of a line from 5N173E to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
7:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:35 PM	5:10 AM
Tuesday	7:38 PM	6:13 AM
Wednesday	8:36 PM	7:17 AM
Thursday	9:29 PM	8:20 AM
Friday	10:17 PM	9:19 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)				**SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)**			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5	UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

US employers waiting and watching before hiring

NEW YORK (AP)—Business has picked up. Yet American companies are too nervous to step up hiring.

The economy seems so gripped by uncertainties that many employers have decided to manage with the staff they have. They aren't convinced their customer demand will keep growing. Or they worry that Europe's festering debt crisis could infect the global economy. Or they aren't sure what Congress will do, if anything, about taxes and spending in coming months.

All that helps explain why U.S. employers added just 69,000 jobs in May, the fewest in a year and the third straight month of weak job growth.

"If you're anxious, you sit on your hands," said Chad Moutray, chief economist at the National Association of Manufacturers.

The U.S. government is also nearing its debt ceiling. It was just last summer that a bickering Congress rattled markets by nearly allowing the government to default on its debt.

State and local spending levels are uncertain or shrinking as governments try to shrink their own debts. The result is smaller budgets for schools, transportation projects and services.

Companies also complain that changes in environmental regulations and business subsidies are too hard to predict and plan for.

Here's a look at why some individual employers remain hesitant to hire:

For many companies that build highways, hiring plans are on hold while Congress debates long-term plans to pay for construction projects.

"I've got paving crews that are ready, willing to go to work next week, but I don't have contracts that I can have them go to work on," said Ed Dalrymple, vice president of Chemung Contracting Corp., based in Elmira, NY.

The company, which operates gravel quarries and asphalt plants and does highway and airport runway paving, relies heavily on government work in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

"There's work that needs to be done, but none of the states have authorized it," Dalrymple said. "If you look at the transportation bill in Congress, it just sits there."

Jason Speer is nervously watching Congress and possible tax changes as Bush-era income tax cuts near expiration at year's end. He's a vice president of Quality Float Works of Schaumberg, Ill., which makes devices to monitor fluid levels in tanks.

Speer says he'd feel a lot better about hiring later this year if it weren't for the uncertainty about federal taxes. Unable to anticipate his company's costs, Speer says he can't make decisions about growth and hiring.

"We don't know if there's something around the corner that's going to hurt our business," Speer says.

Sales in the United States, the Middle East and South Asia have been strong, he says. And the company expects to grow 15 percent this year. But Europe has been a drag: Sales to the region are down 50 to 60 percent this year.

US economy souring, so what's a Democrat to do?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Five months before the elections, the uneven economic recovery is sputtering and job growth is anemic. Stock prices are down to 2011 levels and news on the European debt front is menacing.

What's a Democrat to do?

Ride it out, as President Barack Obama tried to do on Friday in the aftermath of particularly dreary economic reports. "We will come back stronger," he said in Golden Valley, Minn. "We do have better days ahead."

Or conjure fears of an even worse fate.

The Republicans' "only plan is to hand more tax breaks to millionaires, Big Oil, special interests and corporations that ship jobs overseas," said House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California.

Whatever the merit of Obama's optimism or the truth of Pelosi's charge—one was challenged by Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, the other by GOP congressional leaders—no Democrat was claiming they can take the place of a strong economic recovery when it comes to the party's political fortunes.

Yet after 3 1/2 years in office and uncounted battles with Republicans, it isn't obvious what type of stimulus measures might be available to Obama and his allies in Congress.

"Businesses have pulled in their horns, given the growing amount of uncertainty," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University. He said the administration and Congress must immediately address a "fiscal cliff" approaching at year's end. That's when tax cuts first enacted during the administration of George W. Bush are set to expire, across-the-board spending cuts are scheduled to take effect and government borrowing is due to hit the debt ceiling.

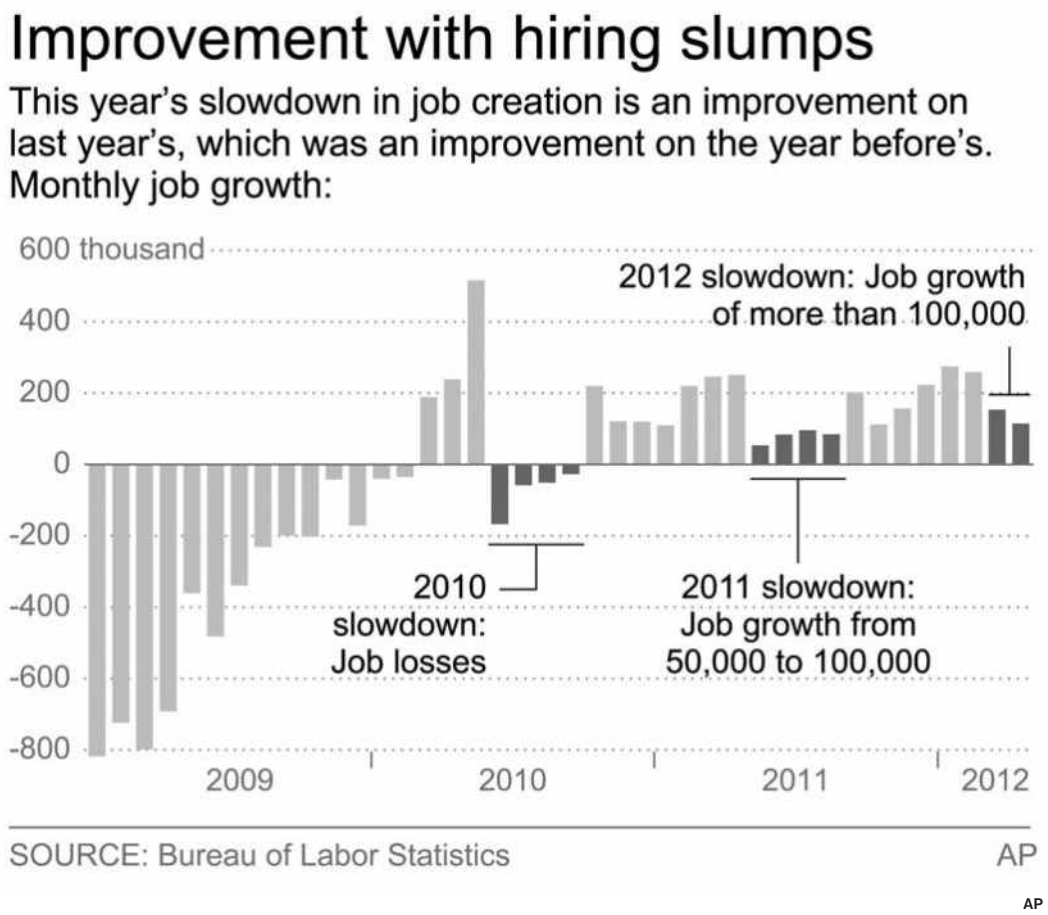
The Congressional Budget Office estimates that expiration of the tax cuts and implementation of automatic spending cuts would "represent an additional drag on the weak economic expansion." The result would be a 1.3 percent economic contraction in the first half of 2013 and "probably be judged to be a recession," it said.

It's a threat that Sohn and others cited Friday as a reason that companies are putting the brakes on hiring.

Yet Obama and Republicans have staked out dramatically different positions on tax cuts and spending reductions, and barring a change, there is no significant possibility of compromise legislation before the November elections to address any of the issues raised by Sohn.

Obama and most Democrats want to allow tax cuts expire at year's end for wealthier wages earners as a way to cut future deficits. Republicans generally oppose any tax increases. Both sides seem content to submit their disagreement to the voters this fall.

On spending, Republicans want to avoid the across-the-board reductions cemented into place last fall when the two sides failed to agree on an overall plan to attack the nation's ever-escalating debt. The GOP warns that the impact of the cuts on the Pentagon would be detrimental to the nation's security. Democrats accuse Republicans of seeking deeper reductions in social programs and are opposed.



AP

This graphic shows monthly job growth since January 2009. This year's slowdown is an improvement on last year's, which was an improvement on the year before's.

Spain PM insists on sticking to austerity measures

MADRID (AP)—Spain will stick to harsh austerity measures until it emerges from financial crisis, the prime minister said Saturday, promising that the country would survive the present economic turmoil.

Mariano Rajoy acknowledged that the country is experiencing turbulence, but said "we are not at the edge of a precipice, we will not sink."

The government has "the will to persevere in this line for as long as is necessary," he said.

Spain, where unemployment stands at a Eurozone high of 24.4 percent, has imposed spending cuts and tax hikes to escape a crisis many fear could eventually swallow other countries using the European single currency.

Rajoy said Saturday that he supported the creation of a single European fiscal authority to uphold the credibility of the euro, and acknowledged that for this to happen it would be necessary for member states to "surrender more of their fiscal autonomy."

He said that while it was possible Spain could have lived beyond its means, it was also true that those who are now criticizing Spain—a reference to Germany—had also lent it money at very cheap rates.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has long maintained that austerity is the most important step toward easing the eurozone debt crisis, however, the leaders of some of those countries hardest hit—faced with anti-austerity demonstrations that have at times turned violent—have also called for steps to be taken to try and boost employment.

Newly elected French president Francois Hollande has also warned against too much of the belt-tightening that Merkel advocates for fear it could unleash political chaos.

Demonstrations against austerity measures in Greece frequently turn violent, and Spanish police baton-charged striking coal miners marching in Madrid on Thursday after a group started throwing stones and bottles. Police said two people were arrested and nine were slightly hurt.

Despite months of painful austerity reforms by Rajoy's conservative government, there is growing concern that its leaders have not done enough and Spanish banks may need to be saved from loans gone bad and foreclosures of property now worth far less than the loans paid out for it.

The country's banking sector is laden with soured investments on real estate and the government recently needed (EURO)19 billion ($23.4 billion) to rescue just one bank, Bankia SA.

Some estimates have put a complete Spanish banking sector bailout cost at between (EURO)50 billion and (EURO)150 billion, but Spain only has (EURO)5 billion left in the (EURO)19 billion bailout fund it established in 2009.

Spain's banking sector, however, is not the sole issue. The economy is mired in its second recession in three years and is forecast to contract 1.7 percent for the year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wal-Mart CEO says co. committed to compliance

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Wal-Mart Stores Inc. CEO Mike Duke said Friday that the retailer is committed to integrity in the wake of recent bribery allegations in Mexico. Duke joined Chairman Robson Walton, the son of founder Sam Walton, at the company's annual meeting on Friday in pledging that Wal-Mart will get to the bottom of the allegations. This comes after the world's largest retailer said in recent weeks that it is overhauling its compliance program and expanding its internal investigation into the accusations to other countries.

Report: JPMorgan returns $600M of MF Global funds

NEW YORK (AP)—JPMorgan Chase has returned about $600 million that was held at the bank when securities firm MF Global Holdings Ltd. failed last fall, according to a news report. The Wall Street Journal also reported Saturday that a bankruptcy trustee representing MF Global's customers might pursue JPMorgan for several hundred million dollars in additional claims. The newspaper cited unnamed people familiar with the matter and with the investigation into MF Global's collapse.

Target sells shirts to help pro-gay marriage group

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Two years after Target Corp. angered gay marriage supporters with a political donation that benefited a fiery gay marriage opponent seeking the governor's office, the retailer is now upsetting same-sex marriage opponents by selling T-shirts to raise money for a group working to defeat a gay marriage ban in Minnesota. The Minneapolis-based retailer is taking heat in its home state, where voters will decide this November whether to put a gay marriage ban into the state constitution. One organizer of gay marriage opponents warned that their displeasure could spread to 32 other states where voters have banned gay marriage. "Target is attacking traditional marriage, which is an incredibly misguided thing for them to have done," said Chuck Darrell, spokesman for Minnesota for Marriage, a group campaigning to pass the constitutional marriage amendment. "It's an insult to the overwhelming majority of their customers."

Nation

Zimmerman credibility may be hurt by bond dispute

SANFORD, Fla. (AP)—The credibility of Trayvon Martin's shooter could become an issue at trial after a Florida judge said that George Zimmerman and his wife lied to the court about their finances to obtain a bond, legal experts say.

That's because the case hinges on jurors believing Zimmerman's account of what happened the night that the 17-year-old Martin was killed. Zimmerman wasn't charged in the case until more than a month after the shooting, as the former neighborhood watch volunteer maintained that he shot Martin in self-defense under Florida's so-called stand your ground law. Protests were held across the nation, and the case spurred debate about whether race was a factor in Zimmerman's actions and in the initial police handling of the case. Martin was black; Zimmerman's father is white and his mother is from Peru.

The questioning of Zimmerman's truthfulness by the judge on Friday could undermine the defendant's credibility if it is brought up at trial. It also may complicate how his defense presents him as a witness, said Orlando-area attorney Randy McClean, a former prosecutor.

"The other key witness, unfortunately, is deceased," McClean said. "Basically, Zimmerman is going to be asking the jury to believe his version of the facts. ... As the case stands now, his credibility is absolutely critical to the case."

Zimmerman had not turned himself in as of early Saturday evening, the day after his bond was revoked. He must do so by Sunday afternoon.

He went into hiding in the weeks after the shooting amid an impassioned debate about the case, and his exact whereabouts since he bonded out of jail remain unclear. It also was not immediately clear exactly where Zimmerman would surrender.

Zimmerman has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder for the February shooting. He maintains he shot Martin in self-defense because the unarmed 17-year-old was beating him up after confronting Zimmerman about following him in a gated community outside Orlando.

Witness accounts of the rainy night that Martin was shot are spotty. There is no video of the fight, though photos released by prosecutors show Zimmerman with wounds to his face and the back of his head.

Zimmerman's credibility would be important if his attorney, Mark O'Mara, tries to get a judge without the jury to dismiss the charges based on the law, said Orlando defense attorney David Hill.

"If he was in on something that was not truthfully revealed to the judge, when there is a `stand your ground' hearing, of course you're going to second-guess him," Hill said.

Both McClean and Hill said O'Mara would be able to challenge the admissibility of the bond revocation at trial by questioning its relevance.

Zimmerman was arrested 44 days after the killing, and during a bond hearing in April, his wife, Shellie, testified that the couple had limited funds available. Zimmerman took the stand at the hearing and apologized to Martin's parents.

Prosecutors pointed out in their motion that Zimmerman had $135,000 available then. It had been raised from donations through a website he had set up. They suggested more has been collected since and deposited in a bank account.

AP

In this April 20, 2012 file photo, George Zimmerman, left, answers a question from attorney Mark O'Mara during a bond hearing in Sanford, Fla.

Police: Indiana couple killed while kids listen

MISHAWAKA, Ind. (AP)—A convicted murderer freed from prison two years ago gunned down his brother during an argument outside his brother's northwest Indiana home early Saturday, then chased his sister-in-law inside and killed her while her terrified children listened, authorities said.

Steven Clippenger, 41, of South Bend, apparently killed Matthew and Lisa Clippenger after he became angry when Matthew confiscated his handgun hours earlier at the home, James Taylor, a St. Joseph County Metro Homicide investigator, said in an affidavit. He got another handgun from an acquaintance, Jenifer Leveque, returned to his brother's home and killed the couple before fleeing with Leveque in a pickup truck, Taylor said. They were arrested a short time later driving away from Steven Clippenger's home.

Steven Clippenger is charged with two counts of murder as well as a weapons charge in the slayings. Leveque, 40, is charged with assisting a criminal and giving a handgun to a felon, the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office said. Clippenger was being held without bond, and Leveque's bond was set at $60,000. It wasn't immediately clear if either had an attorney.

Steven Clippenger was paroled in 2010 after serving 20 years in prison for murder, so when he showed up Friday night at his brother's house with a revolver, Matthew Clippenger confiscated it, angering the ex-con, who returned later with the other gun, Taylor said.

The brothers met in the garage of the home, and the daughter of the slain couple "heard a number of gunshots ring out. Their mother ... opened the door to the garage and began screaming" before going into the garage, where the daughter saw Steven Clippenger point the gun, Taylor said. The girl ran to her brother's bedroom and woke him up.

"The son of Lisa and Matthew Clippenger then opened the bedroom door and saw their mother fleeing down the hallway while Steven Clippenger was chasing her. The children then hear a number of gunshots. They then call 911," Taylor said in the affidavit.

Matthew Clippenger was found on his driveway, and his wife in the hallway, Taylor said.

Neighbors told the investigator they heard shots ring out, looked out a window and saw Steven Clippenger standing over Matthew Clippenger's body and shoot him. They neighbors then saw the gunman enter the home, heard more gunshots, then saw him leave the home and jump into a truck driven by Leveque that sped away with its lights off.

Officers found Steven Clippenger, Leveque and another woman in the car pulling away from his home. There were multiple handguns in the car, they said.

The second woman told officers that when Clippenger and Leveque returned to the home, "they told her to pack up her things and they were fleeing to Georgia," Taylor said.

Authorities didn't provide ages for the slain couple or their children.

Stay or go? Some towns are eyeing retreat from sea

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Years of ferocious storms have threatened to gnaw away the western tip of a popular beachfront park two hours drive north of Los Angeles. Instead of building a 500-foot-long wooden defense next to the pier to tame the tide, the latest thinking is to flee.

Work is under way to gauge the toll of ripping up parking lots on the highly eroded west end of Goleta Beach County Park and moving a scenic bike path and buried utility lines inland away from lapping waves.

Up and down the California coast, some communities are deciding it's not worth trying to wall off the encroaching ocean. Until recently, the thought of bowing to nature was almost unheard of.

But after futile attempts to curb coastal erosion—a problem expected to grow worse with rising seas fueled by global warming—there is growing acknowledgment that the sea is relentless and any line drawn in the sand is likely to eventually wash over.

"I like to think of it as getting out of the way gracefully," said David Revell, a senior coastal scientist at ESA PWA, a San Francisco-based environmental consulting firm involved in Goleta and other planned retreat projects.

The issue of whether to stay or flee is being confronted around the globe. Places experimenting with retreat have adopted various strategies. In Britain, for example, several sites along the Essex coast have deliberately breached seawalls to create salt marshes, which act as a natural barrier to flooding.

In the U.S., the starkest example can be found in Alaska, where entire villages have been forced to move to higher ground or are thinking about it in the face of melting sea ice. Hawaii's famous beaches are slowly shrinking and some scientists think it's a matter of time before the state has to explore whether to move back development.

Several states along the Atlantic coast have adopted policies meant to keep a distance from the ocean. They include no-build zones, setbacks or rolling easements that allow development but with a caveat. As the sea advances, homeowners promise not to build seawalls and must either shift inland or let go.

Over the past half-century, the weapon of choice against a shrinking shoreline has been building a seawall or other defense. Roughly 10 percent of California's 1,100-mile coast is armored. In Southern California, where development is sometimes built steps from the ocean, a third of the shore is dotted with man-made barriers.

While such buffers may protect the base of cliffs, and the land and property behind them, they often exacerbate the problem by scouring beaches, making them narrower or even causing them to disappear.

This is one reason state coastal regulators in 2009 turned down a proposal by Santa Barbara County to fortify an eroding section of Goleta Beach park lashed by periodic storms. A rock wall was built as a temporary stopgap, but a long-term solution was needed. After the state rejected the construction of another hard structure, park officials, working with environmentalists, came up with a Plan B: Move gas, water and sewer lines out of the risk zone. Relocate a bike path to higher ground. Demolish 150 parking spaces and allow the acre of asphalt to be reclaimed by the beach.

ACROSS THE NATION

Phoenix police say mom forgets baby on car roof

PHOENIX (AP)—Phoenix police have arrested a woman who allegedly drove off after forgetting that her 5-week-old baby was in a car seat on the roof of her vehicle. Officer James Holmes said officers were called out early Saturday after witnesses found a child strapped in a safety seat in the middle of an intersection. The boy wasn't hurt. He's now in the custody of Arizona Child Protective Services. Authorities say the child's mother, 19-year-old Catalina Clouser, her boyfriend and their friends had been smoking marijuana earlier in the evening at a nearby park.

Ariz. authorities find 5 bodies in burned vehicle

Five bodies burned beyond recognition have been found inside the shell of a charred sport utility vehicle in the Arizona desert, and Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu said Saturday the case is likely connected to drug cartel violence. The bodies and vehicle were found in the Vekol Valley, a rugged, mountainous desert area that's a well-known smuggling corridor for drugs and illegal immigrants headed from Mexico to Phoenix and the U.S. interior. The bodies were so badly burned that investigators couldn't immediately determine their gender or ethnicity. While it's unclear whether the victims were from Mexico, the sheriff's office has notified the Mexican Consulate.

After stop at NYC airport, shuttle goes to sea

NEW YORK (AP)—The prototype space shuttle that arrived in New York City by air earlier this spring is on the move again, this time by sea. The Enterprise has been parked at Kennedy Airport since it flew from Washington to New York atop a 747 jet. The shuttle was placed on a barge Saturday and readied for a slow journey through the harbor to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum on Manhattan's West Side. The barge is scheduled to be taken Sunday across New York Harbor to Port Elizabeth, N.J.

Asia

US tries not to make waves with 'Pacific Pivot'

SINGAPORE (AP)—As the United States moves to bolster its military position in Asia, it faces severe budget cuts from Congress, an increasingly powerful rival in China and a hornet's nest of regional political sensitivities.

The shift in U.S. policy puts Asia and the Pacific front-and-center of its strategic priorities and is driven by concerns that China has raced ahead in the world's most economically dynamic region while the U.S. was tied up fighting its wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But in a region rife with disputes and increasingly beholden to China's economic engine, the Pentagon is being careful its "pivot to the Pacific" doesn't create too many waves.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who is spearheading the U.S. effort to sell the new strategy in Asia, told regional defense leaders at a major security conference in Singapore that it is only natural for the Asia-Pacific to be in the spotlight because it is home to some of the world's biggest populations and militaries.

Before moving on to Vietnam and India, Panetta said Washington will "of necessity" rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region and vowed 60 percent of the Navy's fleet will be deployed to the Pacific by 2020. He said the U.S. presence will be more agile, flexible and high-tech. Troops may increase overall, but no major influx is expected.

Long-term allies such as Japan, Australia and South Korea strongly support a robust U.S. presence and see the shift as a welcome development.

"The U.S. has made the Asia-Pacific its top priority to reflect the fact that the world economic center of gravity now resides in this region," said Carlyle Thayer, a professor at the University of New South Wales, in Australia.

But others worry the U.S. could try to isolate China, at the rest of Asia's expense.

"With their enormous economic potentials, it is natural that many countries want to build good relations with both China and the United States," Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said at the three-day Singapore meeting, which ended Sunday. "Asia is certainly big enough for all powers—established and emerging."

U.S. officials stress they are not seeking new permanent facilities on foreign shores and instead are looking at a slew of less-threatening and less-expensive deals to rotate troops into existing bases throughout the region, step up joint military maneuvers and push for access to key ports.

"This is not a Cold War situation in which the United States charges in," Panetta said. He assured his audience that U.S. budget problems and cutbacks of nearly $500 billion over the next decade would not get in the way of changes, and he said the Defense Department has money in its five-year budget plan to meet its goals.

The United States has for decades maintained tens of thousands of troops in South Korea and Japan. But while Washington was waging its wars elsewhere and staying relatively static in Asia, China was vastly improving its military.

Beijing has used a 500 percent increase in defense outlays over the past 13 years to develop everything from better submarines and missiles to state-of-the-art fighters, aircraft carriers and electronic warfare systems. That has helped spawn an arms race across Asia—which now has the world's top five arms importers and will this year surpass Europe in total arms expenditures.

Concerns over China in the past were focused mostly on its claims to Taiwan, which it considers a renegade province. But that has broadened out to Beijing's increasingly aggressively claims to the South China Sea, where it has territorial disputes with a half dozen countries.

Those rival claims came to a head in April, when the Philippine navy accused Chinese boats of fishing illegally around Scarborough Shoal, which Manila claims as part of its exclusive economic zone, but which Beijing insists has been Chinese for centuries. The standoff has yet to be resolved, though no shots have been fired.

China says its actions are justified.

AP

U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta shakes hands with a U.S. Navy sailor before departing Paya Lebar Airfeild, Singapore, Sunday, June 3, 2012.

US drone in Pakistan kills 10 suspected militants

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—An American drone strike in the frontier tribal areas of Pakistan killed 10 suspected militants Sunday, Pakistani officials said as the U.S. pushes ahead with its drone campaign in the face of Pakistani demands to stop.

It was the sixth American drone strike over the last two weeks and emphasized the importance the U.S. government puts on the drone campaign, which it considers to be a vital tool in the war against al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Two Pakistani intelligence officials say four missiles were fired at the village of Mana Raghzai in South Waziristan near the border with Afghanistan on Sunday morning.

At the time of the attack, suspected militants were gathered to offer condolences to the brother of a militant commander killed during another American unmanned drone attack on Saturday. The brother was one of those who died in the Sunday morning attack. The Pakistani officials said two of the dead were foreigners, and the rest were Pakistani.

The American drone campaign has been a source of deep frustration and tension between the U.S. and Pakistan.

Under President Barack Obama, the U.S. stepped up its drone campaign in the Pakistani border areas as a way to combat al-Qaida and Taliban fighters from using Pakistan as a base for attacks against American and NATO forces in Afghanistan. However, the number of drone attacks has eased in recent years.

Secretly, many Pakistani military commanders are believed to support the drone campaign. But among the Pakistani public, where the U.S. is viewed with mistrust, the drone strikes are considered an affront to their sovereignty.

The Pakistani government and parliament has repeatedly asked the U.S. to stop the drone strikes.

The ongoing attacks are also complicating efforts for the U.S. and Pakistan to come to an agreement over reopening the supply routes to NATO and American forces in Afghanistan. American airstrikes inadvertently killed 24 Pakistani soldiers in November, prompting Islamabad to block U.S. and NATO supply lines into Afghanistan.

Pakistan has demanded an apology over the raid and an end to drone strikes against militants along the Afghan border as a precursor to reopening the supply lines. But the U.S. has shown no intention to ending the attacks.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Hun Sen's party poised to win Cambodia elections

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling party was expected to win Cambodia's local elections Sunday in a vote that monitors say is tainted by vote buying and other irregularities. The elections for local governing councils across the country are viewed as the key indicator of public opinion ahead of general elections in 2013. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party has ruled Cambodia for nearly three decades. It has strong rural support and overwhelmingly won both previous local elections in 2002 and 2007.

844 evacuated after land sinks in southern China

BEIJING (AP)—More than 800 villagers have been evacuated after land sank in southern China's Guangxi province, which is known for its karst topography. The official Xinhua News Agency reported Saturday that the land subsidence occurred near a middle school in Nanning city's Xixiangtang district after the school dug a well to ease a water shortage. Xinhua says the sink hole is 1.5 meters (5 feet) deep and 2.5 meters (8 feet) wide and has caused one building to collapse, six to tilt and another to crack.

NATO rescues aid workers held by Afghan militants

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—It was a risky but successful operation: British and other NATO forces stormed a cave tucked in the mountains before dawn Saturday and rescued two foreign female aid workers and their two Afghan colleagues being held hostage by Taliban-linked militants. Helicopters, flying under the cover of darkness, ferried the rescue team to extreme northeastern Afghanistan where they suspected the hostages were being held. After confirming the workers were there, they raided the site, killed several militants and freed the hostages, ending their nearly two-week ordeal. Helen Johnston, 28, from Britain, and Moragwa Oirere, 26, from Kenya, and their two Afghan colleagues were kidnapped on May 22 while traveling on horseback in Badakhshan province. The four work for Medair, a humanitarian non-governmental organization based near Lausanne, Switzerland.

Suu Kyi returns home after 1st trip in 24 years

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi completed her first trip out of Myanmar in 24 years on Sunday, a tour that highlighted her new freedom to explore the world—and to return home.

Suu Kyi smiled broadly as she walked through Yangon's airport, escorted by senior officials from her opposition party. She waved to passengers and told reporters that her six-day trip to neighboring Thailand was "very satisfactory."

"It was very successful," she added, before getting into a waiting car.

The longtime political prisoner's trip was viewed as proof of her confidence in Myanmar's new civilian government, whose political reforms contrast starkly with that of the former military junta.

Suu Kyi, who spent 15 of the last two decades under house arrest, had previously refused to leave the country during brief periods of freedom for fear she would not be allowed to return.

She used her trip to draw attention to the plight of her compatriots abroad—from exploited migrant workers who moved to Thailand in search of jobs to war refugees who fled across the border in search of peace.

Suu Kyi stole the spotlight at the World Economic Forum on East Asia, delivering her first speech before an international audience since becoming Myanmar's crusader for democracy in 1988.

During her speech before international investors and diplomats, Suu Kyi cautioned against what she called "reckless optimism" in Myanmar's reform process. She said she trusted President Thein Sein's commitment to reforms but noted that the military is still a force "to be reckoned with."

It was unclear to what extent her trip rankled Thein Sein, who was due to attend the forum but abruptly canceled when word leaked that Suu Kyi would also be there. Many speculated he did not wish to be upstaged by Suu Kyi.

Thein Sein had rescheduled his first official Thailand visit for Monday and Tuesday, but then canceled without offering a reason or a new date, the Thai Foreign Ministry said.

In mid-June Suu Kyi departs begins the next leg of her international travels with a five-country tour to Europe that includes stops in Geneva, Oslo, Dublin, London and Paris. Among the highlights are her trip to Norway where Suu Kyi will formally accept the Nobel Peace Prize she was awarded in 1991.

World

Egypt's Mubarak: From war hero to convict

CAIRO (AP)—War hero. Savior of the nation. An anchor of stability in a turbulent region. And in the twilight of his life, a criminal convicted for his role in the deaths of those fighting to oust him.

Hosni Mubarak was sentenced Saturday to life in prison after a court convicted him on charges of complicity in the killing of protesters during the 2011 uprising that forced him from power. His two sons—Gamal and Alaa—were acquitted on corruption charges.

It was an inglorious end for a leader who rose to power after Islamic extremists assassinated his predecessor Anwar Sadat and then steered the nation through the turmoil that swept the Middle East buffeted by wars, terrorism and religious extremism.

The frail, 84-year-old Mubarak heard the verdict from a gurney in the defendants' cage, surrounded by his sons and former officials who stood in the dock to answer for the crimes of his nearly 30-year rule. The decision can be appealed.

AP

Egypt's ex-President Hosni Mubarak lays on a gurney inside a barred cage in the police academy courthouse in Cairo, Egypt, Saturday, June 2, 2012.

Former president of Egypt

Hosni Mubarak

Early life

Born 1928 in Al-Minufiyah governorate, Egypt

Education Graduated from Egyptian Military Academy, 1949; from Air Force Academy, 1950

Family Married, two sons

Career

1967-1972 Director of Egyptian Air Force Academy

1972-1975 Commander of Egyptian Air Force

1975-1981 Vice president under President Anwar Sadat

1981 Became president following Sadat's assassination

1993, 1996, 1999 Re-elected in single-candidate elections

1995 Survived assassination attempt in Ethiopia, one of at least six attempts on his life

2005 Re-elected for a fifth term in first multiparty election

2010 Candidacy for 2011 presidential election announced

2011 Protests in Cairo demand the departure of Mubarak after 30 years in power

June 2, 2012 Sentenced to life in prison for failing to stop the killing of protesters during the uprising that forced him from power

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Source: Encyclopedia Britannica, BBC, MCT Photo Service, AP

That scene was in stark contrast to the image Mubarak had sought to portray as the rock-solid "father of the nation." In the early days of his rule, Mubarak's stern, colorless demeanor was a welcome change from the destructive charisma of Gamal Abdel-Nasser and the mercurial style of Sadat.

As Mubarak clung to power, the status quo that he personified became increasingly loathed. Like the Great Sphinx that sits immutable through the millennia, this ancient land once revered as the vibrant leader of the Arab world stagnated. Its masses struggled to feed and clothe themselves while countries of the Gulf—once little more than desert oases—seized the role that Egypt once enjoyed.

At home, Mubarak and his aging coterie of generals and business tycoons were unable to check boiling currents of popular fury, or harness the history unfolding in his nation of 85 million—the most populous in the Arab world.

A former pilot and air force commander with a combative, stubborn streak, Mubarak took tentative steps toward democratic reform early in his presidency but pulled back toward the dictatorial style that eventually propelled the protests against him that began on Jan. 25, 2011.

A 2009 cable from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, released by the secret-sharing WikiLeaks website, called him "a tried and true realist, innately cautious and conservative," and with "little time for idealistic goals."

It noted that Mubarak disapproved of the 2003 U.S. invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein of Iraq, which he believed was in need of a "'tough, strong military officer who is fair'" as leader.

"This telling observation, we believe, describes Mubarak's own view of himself as someone who is tough but fair, who ensures the basic needs of his people," the cable said. "In Mubarak's mind, it is far better to let a few individuals suffer than risk chaos for society as a whole."

Yet that very image of cautious stability was once welcomed in the West, which feared that Sadat's death in a hail of gunfire at a military parade would unleash a wave of unrest that would scuttle the fledgling peace with Israel at a time when America and its allies were panicked over the rise of militant Islam in Iran.

Instead, Mubarak maintained the peace with Israel and kept Egypt free of the grip of Islamic extremism. He struggled with the problems that have long bedeviled the Arab world: choking corruption, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and religious militancy. Economic reforms spurred growth, but the fruits trickled only to a few.

He engineered Egypt's return to the Arab fold after nearly a decade in the cold over its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Police: Shots fired at Canada mall, 1 dead

TORONTO (AP)—A gunman fired shots in a crowded food court in one of Canada's busiest malls Saturday killing a man and injuring seven others, police said.

Police Chief Bill Blair said the shooting at Eaton Centre in downtown Toronto targeted one individual and there were a number of innocent bystanders. Police constable Victor Kwong said two people were in critical condition after being shot at the Eaton Centre in downtown Toronto, including a 13-year old boy. The 25-year-old man who was killed died at the scene, he said.

Kwong said six people were shot in all, including the deceased. Two people were trampled on and pushed, including a pregnant woman who went into labor after she was pushed, he said.

Blair said investigators have a description of the suspect.

"A lot of innocent people were hurt and a lot of innocent people were put at risk," Blair said. "We will be relentless in our pursuit of the individual or individuals that were responsible. We are receiving a lot of cooperation from the people that were present in the foot court."

Blair called the Eaton Centre an iconic landmark in Toronto, Canada's largest city.

"Any place for discharging a firearm in Toronto is dangerous. In the food court of the Eaton Centre on a Saturday evening, it's not only dangerous, it's outrageous," he said. "I believe every Torontonian is shocked and appalled by this crime."

Toronto prides itself on being one of the safest cities in North America. Many Canadians have long taken comfort in the peacefulness of their communities and are nervous about anything that might indicate they are moving closer to their American counterparts.

Witnesses said multiple shots were fired in the mall's food court and that hundreds of panicked shoppers sprinted for the exits. The mall, which is popular with tourists, was evacuated.

Swarms of people watched from outside as an injured man with visible bullet wounds was wheeled out on a stretcher.

Toronto Blue Jays baseball player Brett Lawrie was in the mall when the shooting took place and was one of the first to take to Twitter to break the news.

"Pretty sure someone just let off a round bullets in eaton center mall ... Wow just sprinted out of the mall ... through traffic," he tweeted. "People sprinting up the stairs right from where we just were ... Wow wow wow."

He later tweeted that he was "Rattled right now."

Marcus Neves-Polonio, 19, was working in the food court when he saw a man pull out a gun and start firing. At least two people were on the ground, he said.

"All of a sudden a herd of people were just running toward us, a massive crowd of people screaming, running, freaking out," said Hannah Stewart, 21, a shopper. "We saw this girl, sitting on the ground, and she had blood on her toes." The girl appeared to have been one of the victims and told Stewart she had just been shot.

10 killed in cargo plane crash in Ghana's capital

ACCRA, Ghana (AP)—A Boeing 727 cargo plane attempting to land at the international airport in Ghana's capital crashed Saturday, slamming into a bus loaded with passengers on a nearby street, killing all 10 people inside the vehicle, emergency responders and airport officials said.

The crash occurred in Accra near Kotoka International Airport, which sits near newly built high-rise buildings and hotels. Witnesses said the plane first smashed through the fence that runs around the airport before hitting the bus.

Local television showed images of the plane lying across a road with its tail damaged as the flight crew jumped off and received help from emergency responders. Police and soldiers quickly cordoned off the neighborhood where the plane crashed.

Billy Anaglate, spokesman for the Ghana Fire Service, said that all 10 passengers in the bus were killed on impact. The plane's four crew members survived the crash and were rushed to a local hospital for treatment.

"What happened is that the Allied (Air) Cargo plane, actually I was told, was traveling from Nigeria to Ghana. At the landing it was short of the boundary, and it went off onto the roadside. It crashed into a bus," said Anaglate, who was reached by telephone late Saturday.

"... (The plane) broke the barrier and went onto the road and hit the vehicle and unfortunately in the vehicle everyone ended up dying. The poor people were killed."

Doreen Owusu Fianko, the chief executive of the Ghana Airport Co., said that operations at the airport had returned to normal after the crash Saturday. Fianko, who addressed reporters at a press conference hours after the accident, said the plane was coming from Lagos, the commercial capital of Nigeria, when it crashed after a failed landing attempt.

Witnesses said the plane was labeled as belonging to Allied Air Cargo, a fact confirmed by Anaglate. The name and symbols on the aircraft matched those of the Nigerian air freight company based out of Lagos. Telephone numbers for the company in London, Lagos and the Nigerian city of Port Harcourt rang unanswered Saturday night.

Ghana, a nation of more than 25 million in West Africa, has not had a major airplane crash in recent years. The last air emergency the country had was in June 2006, when a TAAG Linhas Aereas De Angola flight to Sao Tome hit birds during takeoff. The plane landed safely and none of the 28 people onboard were injured.

Ghana's Vice President John Dramani Mahama ordered aviation officials to launch an investigation.

"I urge you to conduct preliminary investigations as early as possible," Mahama said in front of reporters at a news conference Saturday. "And no early conclusions should be drawn to the cause of the accident," Mahama added.

France says military action in Syria only under UN

SINGAPORE (AP)—France says it will only participate in military action in Syria under a United Nations mandate.

French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told an Asian security summit Sunday that the international community should increase sanctions and pressure in an effort to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad. An anti-government uprising has raged for more than a year in Syria.

U.S. Senator John McCain on Saturday urged the Obama Administration to arm Syrian rebels and create safe zones. Russia is an ally of Assad and has squashed attempts at U.N. action in Syria.

Le Drian said that a meeting Friday between French President Francois Hollande and Russian President Vladimir Putin "doesn't make it possible to think the veto will be lifted tomorrow morning."

Focus

Life sentence for Egypt's Mubarak; sons acquitted

CAIRO (AP)—Former President Hosni Mubarak got a life sentence Saturday for failing to stop the killing of protesters during Egypt's uprising. But he and his sons were cleared of corruption charges, setting off protests for greater accountability for 30 years of abuses under the old regime.

By nightfall, a large crowd of up to 10,000 was back in Cairo's Tahrir Square, the birthplace of the uprising, to vent anger over the acquittals. Similar protests went on in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria and Suez on the Red Sea.

"Justice was not served," said Ramadan Ahmed, whose son was killed on Jan. 28, the bloodiest day of last year's uprising. "This is a sham," he said outside the courthouse.

Protesters chanted: "A farce, a farce, this trial is a farce" and "The people want execution of the murderer."

The case against Mubarak, his sons, and top aides was very limited in scope, focusing only on the uprising's first few days and two narrow corruption cases. It was never going to provide a full accountability of wrongdoing under Mubarak's three decades of authoritarian rule enforced by a brutal police force and a coterie of businessmen linked to the regime who amassed wealth while nearly half of Egypt's estimated 85 million people lived in poverty.

Mubarak, 84, and his ex-security chief Habib el-Adly were both convicted of complicity in the killings of some 900 protesters and received life sentences. Six top police commanders were acquitted of the same charge with chief Judge Ahmed Rifaat saying there was a lack of concrete evidence.

That absolved the only other representatives of Mubarak's hated security forces aside from el-Adly. It was a stark reminder that though the head has been removed, the body of the reviled security apparatus is largely untouched by genuine reform or purges since Mubarak was ousted 15 months ago.

Many of the senior security officials in charge during the uprising and the Mubarak regime continue to go to work every day at their old jobs.

In many ways, the old system remains in place and the clearest example of that is a key regime figure— Mubarak's longtime friend and last prime minister Ahmed Shafiq— is one of two candidates going to the presidential runoff set for June 16-17. On Saturday, Shafiq's campaign headquarters in the cities of Fayyoum and Hurghada were attacked and damaged.

The generals who took over from Mubarak have not shown a will for vigorously prosecuting the old regime. That is something that neither Shafiq and challenger Mohammed Morsi may have the political will or the muscle to change when one is elected president.

Shafiq last week declared himself an admirer of the uprising, calling it a "religious revolution" and pledged there would be no turning of the clock while he is at the helm. On Saturday, he said the verdict showed that no on was above the law in today's Egypt.

Morsi of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood quickly tried to capitalize on the anger over the acquittals, vowing in a news conference that, if elected, he would retry Mubarak along with former regime officials suspected of involvement in killing protesters.

"Egypt and its revolutionary sons will continue their revolution. This revolution will not stop," he said.

The case against Mubarak, his sons, ex-security chief and six of his top aides was very limited in scope, focusing only on the uprising's first few days and two narrow corruption cases. It was never going to provide a full accountability of wrongdoing under Mubarak's three-decades of authoritarian rule enforced by a brutal police force and a coterie of businessmen linked to the regime who amassed wealth while nearly half of Egypt's estimated 85 millions lived in poverty.

Mubarak and his two sons were acquitted of corruption charges, along with family friend Hussein Salem, who is on the run. The corruption charges were related to the purchase by the Mubaraks of five villas built by Salem at a fraction of their price and Mubarak's decree to allow a Salem company to export natural gas to Israel. Rifaat cited a 10-year statute of limitations that had lapsed on the case of the villas.

The sons— one-time heir apparent Gamal and wealthy businessman Alaa— will not be freed because they are awaiting trial on charges of insider trading. They have been held in custody in Torah prison, the same jail where Mubarak was flown after the sentencing.

The charges related to killing protesters carried a possible death sentence that the judge chose not to impose, opting instead to send Mubarak to prison for the rest of his life.

After the sentencing, Mubarak suffered a "health crisis" on a helicopter flight to a Cairo prison hospital, according to security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. One state media report said it was a heart attack, but that could not immediately be confirmed.

The officials said Mubarak cried in protest and resisted leaving the helicopter that took him to a prison hospital for the first time since he was detained in April 2011. They said the former leader insisted he be flown to the military hospital on the outskirts of Cairo where he was held in a luxury suite during the trial. Mubarak finally left the chopper and moved to the prison hospital more than two hours after the helicopter landed there.

Earlier, a bedridden Mubarak sat stone-faced and frowning in the courtroom's metal defendants' cage while Rifaat read out the conviction and sentence against him, showing no emotion with his eyes concealed by dark sunglasses. His sons Gamal and Alaa looked nervous but also did not react to either the conviction of their father or their own acquittals.

Rifaat opened the session with an indictment of Mubarak's regime that expressed deep sympathy for the uprising 15 months ago.

"The people released a collective sigh of relief after a nightmare that did not, as is customary, last for a night, but for almost 30 black, black, black years— darkness that resembled a winter night," he said.

"They did not seek a luxurious life or to sit atop the world, but asked their politicians, rulers who sat on the throne of opulence, wealth and power to give them bread and clear water to satisfy their hunger and quench their thirst and to be in a home that shelters their families and the sons of the nation far from the rotten slums," he said.

"They were chanting 'peaceful, peaceful' with their mouths while their stomachs were empty and their strength was failing. ... They screamed ... 'rescue us and pull us from the torture of poverty and humiliation.'"

Rifaat criticized the prosecution's case, saying it lacked evidence and that there was nothing in what has been presented to the court that proved that the protesters were killed by the police. Because those who pulled the trigger have not been arrested, he added, he could not convict any of the top police officers of complicity in the killing of the protesters.

The question of who ordered the killings of protesters was left unanswered.

The prosecution had complained during the trial that it did not receive any help from the Interior Ministry in its preparation for the case and, in some cases, prosecutors were met with obstruction.

One of the uprising's key pro-democracy groups, April 6, rejected the acquittals, saying Rifaat at once paid homage to the protesters and ignored the grief of the families of those killed by acquitting the top police commanders.

"We will continue to cleanse Egypt from corruption," the group said.

Most of the several hundred who attended the court session represented all branches of Mubarak's police state— police conscripts in plainclothes, uniformed policemen ranging from lieutenants in their early 20s to graying generals, and mysterious looking men in business suits with two-way-radios treated with reverence by their uniformed colleagues.

Outside the courtroom— a lecture hall in a police academy on the outskirts of Cairo that once bore Mubarak's name— one man fell to his knees and prostrated himself in prayer on the pavement while others danced, pumped fists in the air and shot off fireworks.

But that scene soon descended into tensions and scuffles, as thousands of riot police in helmets and shields held the restive, mostly anti-Mubarak crowd back behind a cordon protecting the court. At least 60 people were injured, state TV reported.

Angered by the acquittals, lawyers for the victims' families broke out chanting inside the courtroom as soon as Rifaat finished reading the verdict.

"The people want to cleanse the judiciary," they chanted. Some raised banners that read: "God's verdict is execution," while others screamed "illegal!"

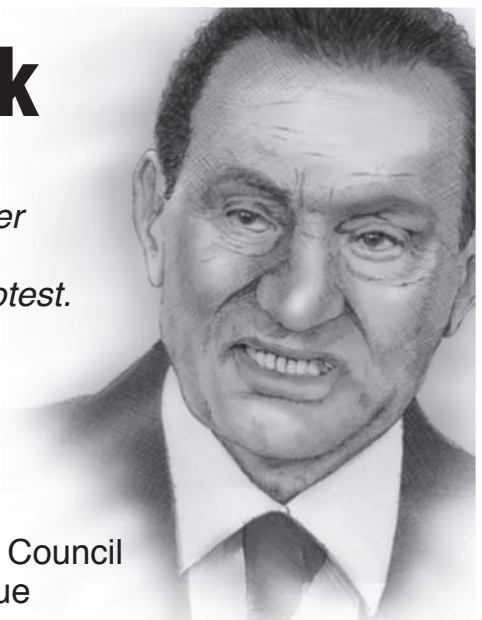
U.S.-based Human Rights Watch called the verdict a "landmark conviction" but criticized the prosecution for failing to fully investigate the case.

Maha Youssef, a legal expert from the Nadim Center in Cairo, said the judge's verdict should be the basis of a successful appeal to throw out the convictions.

"It's a completely politicized verdict that is meant to calm the masses. The essence of a ruling by a criminal court judge is not in the papers of the case but in his own personal conviction as someone who lives among the people and know what goes on in his society."

Egypt's Mubarak

What had been the longest tenure since King Farouk ended when former President Hosni Mubarak resigned Feb. 11, 2011, following weeks of protest.



1980s

1981 Assumes presidency after Anwar Sadat is assassinated

1987 Elected to second of five terms

1989 Helps create Arab Cooperation Council (financial market); rejoins Arab League

1990s

1995 Survives assassination attempt in Ethiopia, one of at least six attempts on his life

1997 58 tourists killed in Luxor by Islamist militants in attempt to topple Mubarak

2000s

2005 Wins fifth term despite street protests; has constitution rewritten to limit competition

2006 Says he will retain presidency for life

2010s

February 2011 Protests over high levels of poverty, corruption and unemployment lead to his resignation

August 2011 Brought to trial, accused of conspiring to kill protesters and abusing power to gain wealth

June 2, 2012 Sentenced to life in prison for failing to stop the killing of protesters during the uprising that forced him from power

During his presidency, Mubarak maintained stability, peace with Israel and ties with the U.S., but he incited anger at home as he jailed opponents, rigged elections and failed to bring prosperity to many Egyptians

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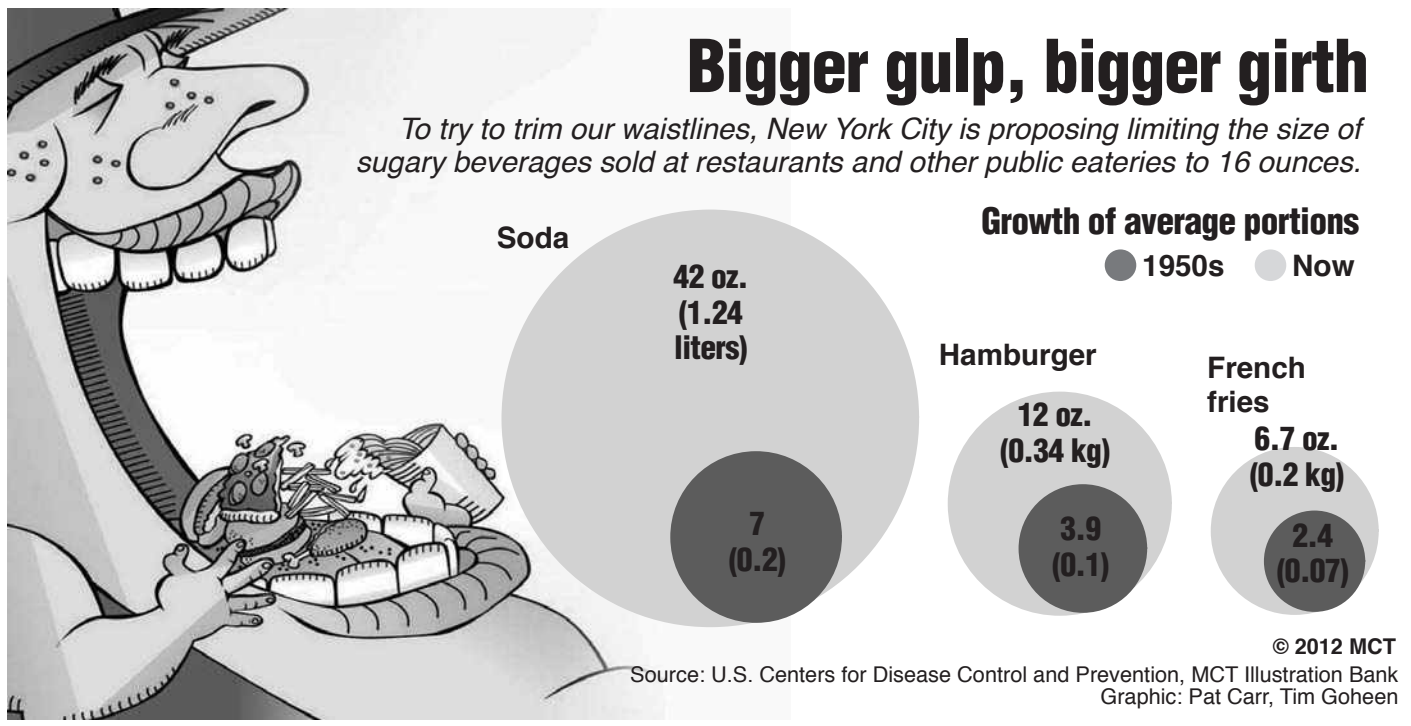
Source: BBC, Reuters

Health & Fitness

Big sodas today; bagels with a schmeer tomorrow?

By ADAM GELLER
AP NATIONAL WRITER


Bigger gulp, bigger girth
To try to trim our waistlines, New York City is proposing limiting the size of sugary beverages sold at restaurants and other public eateries to 16 ounces.
Growth of average portions
1950s
Now
Soda
42 oz. (1.24 liters)
7 (0.2)
Hamburger
12 oz. (0.34 kg)
3.9 (0.1)
French fries
6.7 oz. (0.2 kg)
2.4 (0.07)
© 2012 MCT
Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MCT Illustration Bank
Graphic: Pat Carr, Tim Goheen

NEW YORK (AP)—Just how far would a government go to protect us from ourselves?

In New York City—which already bans smoking in public parks in the name of public health and bars artificial trans fats from food served in restaurants—Mayor Michael Bloomberg now wants to stop sales of large sodas and other sugary drinks, in a bid to battle obesity. But in a country where fries have been equated with freedom, Bloomberg's proposal raises super-sized questions about government's role in shaping and restricting individual choices. What's next, a Twinkie purge?

"The idea of the state stepping in and treating adults essentially as children and trying to protect them for their own good, as opposed to the good of others, that's been with us for as long as we've been around, as long as we've had governments," says Glen Whitman, an economist at California State University-Northridge who is a critic of paternalistic public policy.

The most famous example was Prohibition, which barred the manufacture and sale of alcohol from 1919 to 1933. But Whitman and others see a new wave of intervention afoot, based on behavioral economics rather than religious moralism, and symbolized by moves like Bloomberg's. Allow it to continue, they say, and who knows where it could lead?

If government officials can limit the size of sodas, why couldn't they next decide to restrict portion sizes of food served in restaurants or the size of pre-made meals sold at supermarkets? Why wouldn't a government determined to curb obesity restrict sales of doughnuts or pastries or—perish the thought, New Yorkers—ban bagels with a schmeer of cream cheese?

If government is within its right to restrict behavior to protect health, then why wouldn't a mayor or other official ban risky sexual conduct or dangerous sports like skydiving? What's to stop a mayor from requiring people to wear a certain type of sunscreen or limit the amount of time they can spend on the beach, to protect them from skin cancer?

The more ho-hum reality is that many of the policies restricting individual choice in the name of public health seem almost benign, like curbs on fireworks sales or enforcement of motorcycle helmet laws. But such moves represent a "constant creep until all of a sudden its extremely obvious," said Mattie Duppler of Americans for Tax Reform, a conservative anti-tax lobbying group that regularly spotlights examples of what it considers overreaching "Nanny State" public policy.

She points to moves by governments, like the city of Richmond, Calif., to impose taxes on sugary sodas and moves by states like Utah, which widened a ban on indoor smoking in public places to include electronic cigarettes that don't emit smoke.

"What we're seeing is government trying to put its fingers around the throat of anything that claims public health impetus," Duppler says.

Others, though, have their doubts. Richard Thaler, co-author of "Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness," which argues for policies that encourage rather than mandate changes in consumer behavior, calls Bloomberg's soda proposal "inartful and probably ineffective and too heavy-handed for my taste."

But for him, most of the questions it raises are about practicality, rather than red flags.

Would a Bloomberg curb on big drinks ban free refills, asks Thaler, an economist at the University of Chicago? Would it ban special offers to buy one drink and get the second at half-price?

Thaler, who says he is against government mandates or bans, argues that governments will get the most mileage from policies that nudge behavior, like placing fruit more prominently in school cafeterias. But he dismisses warnings that government efforts to improve public health risks sending the country down a slippery slope of more control and less individual choice.

"Any time people do something that people don't like, they predict it will lead to something awful," Thaler said. "I have not seen a big trend of governments becoming more intrusive."

Even Duppler has her doubts about what Bloomberg's soda proposal represents. It may be so politically iffy that it fizzles before it even gets off the ground. Then again, you never know what to expect from the city that never sleeps—and no longer smokes in bars, in airports or in the park.

"We'll see," she says of the soda proposal. "There's some crazy ideas—and sometimes they just take hold."

Study: 'Smart bomb' drug attacks breast cancer

AP

This undated file image provided in 2007 by the Duke University Department of Medicine shows a right breast MRI from a 55-year-old woman with extreme breast density.

CHICAGO (AP)—Doctors have successfully dropped the first "smart bomb" on breast cancer, using a drug to deliver a toxic payload to tumor cells while leaving healthy ones alone.

In a key test involving nearly 1,000 women with very advanced disease, the experimental treatment extended by several months the time women lived without their cancer getting worse, doctors planned to report Sunday at a cancer conference in Chicago.

More importantly, the treatment seems likely to improve survival; it will take more time to know for sure. After two years, 65 percent of women who received it were still alive versus 47 percent of those in a comparison group given two standard cancer drugs.

That margin fell just short of the very strict criteria researchers set for stopping the study and declaring the new treatment a winner, and they hope the benefit becomes more clear with time. In fact, so many women on the new treatment are still alive that researchers cannot yet determine average survival for the group.

"The absolute difference is greater than one year in how long these people live," said the study's leader, Dr. Kimberly Blackwell of Duke University. "This is a major step forward."

A warning to hopeful patients: the drug is still experimental, so not available yet. Its backers hope it can reach the market within a year.

The treatment builds on Herceptin, the first gene-targeted therapy for breast cancer. It is used for about 20 percent of patients whose tumors overproduce a certain protein.

Researchers combined Herceptin with a chemotherapy so toxic that it can't be given by itself, plus a chemical to keep the two linked until they reach a cancer cell where the poison can be released to kill it.

This double weapon, called T-DM1, is the "smart bomb," although it's actually not all that smart—Herceptin isn't a homing device, just a substance that binds to breast cancer cells once it encounters them.

Doctors tested T-DM1 in 991 women with widely spread breast cancer that was getting worse despite treatment with chemotherapy and ordinary Herceptin. They were given either T-DM1 infusions every three weeks or infusions of Xeloda plus daily Tykerb pills—the only other treatments approved for such cases.

The median time until cancer got worse was nearly 10 months in the women given T-DM1 versus just over 6 months for the others. That is about the same magnitude of benefit initially seen with Herceptin, which later proved to improve overall survival, too, Blackwell said.

T-DM1 caused fewer side effects than the other drugs did. Some women on T-DM1 had signs of liver damage and low levels of factors that help blood clot, but most did not have the usual problems of chemotherapy.

"People don't lose their hair, they don't throw up. They don't need nausea medicines, they don't need transfusions," said Blackwell, who has consulted in the past for Genentech, the study's sponsor.

"The data are pretty compelling," said Dr. Michael Link, a pediatric cancer specialist at Stanford University who is president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the group hosting the Chicago conference where the results were being presented.

"It's sort of a smart bomb kind of therapy, a poison delivered to the tumor ... and not a lot of other collateral damage to other organs," he said.

Dr. Louis Weiner, director of Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, said the results strongly suggest T-DM1 improves survival. It delivers more drug directly to tumors with less side effects, "a clear advance," he said.

Denise Davis, 51, a customer service representative at a propane company, was diagnosed three years ago with breast cancer that had spread to her liver and bones. Since February of last year, the Lynchburg, Va., woman has made the two-hour trip to Duke in Durham, N.C., every three weeks to get infusions of T-DM1.

"I call it `Herceptin-plus,'" she said. Scans every six weeks show "everything is still shrinking or stable," she said. "Right now, I'm feeling pretty good about it. The only way I'd feel a little better is if it took care of everything, but I'll take what I can get."

Genentech, part of the Swiss company Roche, plans to seek approval later this year to sell the drug in Europe and the United States. Another company, ImmunoGen Inc., made the technology combining the drugs.

Genentech says the price of T-DM1 has not been determined. Herceptin costs more than $4,000 a month plus whatever doctors charge to infuse it. Herceptin's U.S. patent doesn't expire until 2019.

Life & Style

Queen spends day at races as jubilee events begin

LONDON (AP)—It was a royal day at the races, as Queen Elizabeth II watched a horse with the courtly name of Camelot win the Epsom Derby on Saturday—the kickoff to a four-day celebration of the British monarch's 60 years on the throne.

Later in the weekend the queen will make a trip down the River Thames, and then take in a concert—all accompanied by tens of thousands of her subjects, coming out to fete a monarch whose longevity has given her the status of the nation's favorite grandmother.

An armada of vessels—from historic sailboats and barges to kayaks, lifeboats and military launches—was mustering along the Thames ahead of Sunday's river pageant. The queen aboard the royal barge will lead the flotilla of 1,000 boats—described by organizers as the biggest gathering on the river for 350 years.

Diamond Jubilee festivities officially began Saturday with a 41-gun salute fired by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery at Horse Guards Parade in central London.

The 86-year-old monarch and her husband, Prince Philip, visited Epsom racecourse south of the capital for the Derby, one of the year's biggest horse-racing meetings. The queen waved to the 130,000-strong crowd as she was driven down the racecourse in a Bentley bearing the Royal Standard—the car's sun roof kept shut under gray skies—before settling down to watch the races from the royal box.

Dressed in a royal blue coat and matching hat over a blue-and-white floral dress, the queen was accompanied by members of the royal family including her sons Prince Andrew and Prince Edward and Andrew's daughters Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie.

The royals were treated to an aerial display by members of the British Army's Red Devils parachute team before the main event—the racing.

The monarch is a racing fan and horse breeder who has attended the Derby for decades and reads the Racing Post each day over breakfast, although unlike many of her subjects she does not gamble.

The queen presented prizes to some of the race winners and spoke intently to jockeys and trainers

"She's incredibly knowledgeable. Her knowledge of thoroughbreds and breeding goes way back," said Anthony Cane, chairman of Epsom Downs Racecourse.

AP

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II arrives for the Epsom Derby at Epsom race course, southern England at the start of a four-day Diamond Jubilee celebration to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne Saturday, June 2, 2012.

The queen took the throne in 1952 on the death of her father, King George VI, and most Britons have known no other monarch.

Despite cool, damp weather in much of the country, hundreds of thousands of people are expected to participate in celebrations, including street parties, Sunday's flotilla and a Monday pop concert in front of Buckingham Palace featuring Elton John and Paul McCartney.

Jubilee events end Tuesday with a religious service at St. Paul's Cathedral, a carriage procession through the streets of London and the queen's appearance with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren on the palace balcony.

Prime Minister David Cameron—the 12th British leader of the queen's reign—paid tribute to the monarch's "extraordinary level of physical energy, mental energy, and above all devotion to her people, to the institutions of this country, to the way our democracy works."

Not everyone in Britain will be celebrating. The anti-monarchist group Republic plans a riverbank protest as the flotilla goes by on Sunday, followed by a pub night where royal refuseniks can drown their sorrows.

With pictures of the monarch splashed across newspaper front pages, the left-leaning Guardian provided a button on its website that removed all jubilee stories.

But many Britons embraced the jubilee spirit—a tribute to a monarch whose popularity cuts across all ages, social classes and political affiliations.

In a jubilee gift from Britain's politicians, lawmakers from the three main parties have backed a motion calling for the tower housing Big Ben—the beloved London bell that chimes the quarter hour—to be renamed in the queen's honor.

More than half of legislators have signed a letter asking parliamentary authorities to consider renaming the east tower of the Houses of Parliament the Elizabeth Tower. It's currently called the Clock Tower.

While many Britons used the long weekend to relax—and an estimated 2 million left the country on vacation—writers and religious leaders used the occasion to reflect on how Britain has changed over the queen's reign, from a war-scarred imperial power to a middle-sized power with oversized cultural clout.

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, spiritual head of the Anglican Church, expressed a widely held view when he said Britain had been lucky to have Elizabeth as monarch throughout a period of rapid change.

"It seems to me that what her importance has been for most people in this country has been as a sign of stability, a sign of some kind of security," Williams said in a jubilee video message.

"And that wouldn't have happened had she not been so profoundly committed at every point, so intelligently committed to understanding the society she was in, working with the flow of the changes that have taken place. To have someone who has been a symbol, a sign of stability through all that period is really a rather exceptional gift."

Some have speculated that as she ages the queen might abdicate in favor of her 63-year-old son, Prince Charles—or even her wildly popular grandson, Prince William.

Those who know her say that is unlikely.

"I think it's an absolutely absurd notion," former Prime Minister John Major told Sky News. "I have not a shadow of a doubt that given her health she will remain monarch for the rest of her life."

'Housewives' actress Kathryn Joosten dies at 72

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kathryn Joosten, a character actress best known as the crotchety, yet loveable, Karen McCluskey on "Desperate Housewives" and the president's secretary on "The West Wing," has died. She was 72.

Joosten, who had battled lung cancer for 11 years, died Saturday at her home in Los Angeles, her publicist Nadine Jolson said.

Joosten "was surrounded by love and humor `til the end," her family said in a statement. "We are laughing through our tears."

Joosten won two Emmy awards for her portrayal of Mrs. McCluskey, who kept a close eye on her Wisteria Lane neighbors on "Desperate Housewives." The hit show ended its eight-year run on ABC last month with a series finale in which Joosten's character passed away. Her character's battle with cancer was a story line in the show.

Joosten's "Desperate Housewives" co-stars took to Twitter to express their condolences.

"Rest in peace, she was an amazing woman and a wonderful actress," Felicity Huffman wrote.

Brenda Strong said in a tweet: "Wisteria Lane won't be the same without you."

AP

In this Sept. 19, 2008 file photo, Kathryn Joosten arrives at the 2008 Primetime Emmy Awards Nominees for Outstanding Performance reception in Los Angeles.

Joosten was a psychiatric nurse and single mother in suburban Chicago when she began her acting career at 42. She wrote on her website that she pursued her childhood dream of acting after getting involved with her hometown theater in Lake Forest, Ill.

She said she received her first break when she was hired to be a street performer at Disney World in Orlando. She worked odd jobs to make ends meet and moved to Hollywood in 1995. She said she landed her first small role within months on the comedy "Family Matters."

Over the years, she found steady work appearing in such popular shows as "Dharma & Greg," "Ally McBeal" and "Scrubs." She became a familiar face to fans of NBC's "The West Wing" when she appeared as Dolores Landingham, President Jed Bartlet's trusted secretary.

"Some people in Hollywood think of me as a model for dramatic midlife transitions: suburban housewife to Emmy-winning actress," she wrote on her website. "But I never plotted a master plan for following my dreams."

Joosten was an advocate for lung cancer awareness and research and sat on the board of governors for the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

She is survived by her sons, Jonathan and Timothy.

Plans for a memorial service were pending.

VP Joe Biden's daughter marries doctor in Delaware

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Vice President Joe Biden's daughter Ashley married a Pennsylvania doctor at a ceremony in Delaware, the vice president's office announced late Saturday.

A news release from Biden's office says 30-year-old Ashley Blazer Biden was married Saturday to Dr. Howard David Krein in Wilmington.

She is a social worker for the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. He is a New Jersey native and a facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, according to The News-Journal of Wilmington.

The newspaper reported that the couple was exchanging vows at the same church where she was baptized, St. Joseph on the Brandywine, in a joint Jewish-Catholic ceremony. It was being followed by a reception at the Biden residence in Greenville. The guest list numbered about 200.

Vice President Biden and his wife Jill issued a statement saying the couple's close family and friends attended the private ceremony.

"We're happy to welcome Howard into our family, and we wish them all the best in their new life together," the statement says.

Jill Biden told The News-Journal in an interview before the ceremony (http://delonline.us/KFNmji) that Krein's plans to ask the vice president for his daughter's hand in marriage were delayed when his train to Washington broke down. He finally got there at 1 a.m.

"He asked for Ashley's hand and of course Joe said yes," Jill Biden told the newspaper.

The bride and groom were introduced in late 2010 by Biden's son, Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden. Krein proposed about a year later, at sunset on a cliff at California's Big Sur.

AP

In this photo provided by the White House, Vice President Joe Biden's daughter Ashley Biden and her husband Dr. Howard Krein pose for a portrait at their wedding in Wilmington, Del., Saturday, June 2, 2012.

Jill Biden said the couple are passionate about helping the less-privileged, and that Krein spends two weeks a year in Belize performing reconstructive surgery on children with facial deformities.

"Howard is the perfect guy," Jill Biden said. "He's perfect for Ashley."

Chesney, McGraw begin 22-city summer stadium tour

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—This is no ordinary friendship—or concert tour.

When country superstars Kenny Chesney and Tim McGraw kick off their highly anticipated 22-city stadium tour Saturday in Tampa, it will be the high point of their careers and friendship.

The two men met at a bar in Nashville more than 20 years ago. Chesney had just moved to the city and didn't know anyone. McGraw had a record contract but had yet to put out a single.

McGraw joked in an interview at Raymond James Stadium on Friday that they would hang out at each other's apartments "depending on who had paid the electric bill that month."

"That's not a lie," Chesney added.

AP

Country singers Kenny Chesney, left, and Tim McGraw appear at a news conference to promote their "Brothers of the Sun" concert tour on Friday June 1, 2012 in Tampa, Fla.

Neither dreamed they would ever headline a tour, much less enter territory attempted by very few music acts of any genre as they co-headline this tour together. Today they are two of country music's top draws and by combining forces on "The Brothers of the Sun" tour they're launching what some are calling country music's biggest tour ever.

"You don't dream that," said Chesney, pointing at the enormous stage inside the stadium. "I just wanted a song on the radio."

Added McGraw: "We wanted to have big careers. We wanted to go out and set the world on fire. But you know, in the back of your mind, you always think, `If I could just get a hit song, I'd be happy.'"

The tour, which also includes Grace Potter & The Nocturnals and Jake Owen, is so much more than a hit song or even your usual arena show. It's comprised of three complete stage systems, 85 tractor-trailers, 240 roadies and two culinary staffs, according to tour manager Ed Wannebo, who spoke to the media Friday as McGraw and Chesney joked and whispered in each other's ears nearby like schoolboys.

The tour—and especially the stage set—"consumed" Chesney. It started with ideas scrawled on "a pen and napkin" and planning and preparation began months ago.

"Building that," Chesney said while pointing to the stage, "There's a lot that goes into it. I have my hands on basically everything on that stage, the way it looks, the way it moves, everything. That's just the way I am. I'm very hands-on. I care what it looks like, because I want to give the fans the best possible experience."

McGraw said he and Chesney initially wanted to do just a couple of large shows, but the plan grew. The first show in Tampa is sure to be a large one; when Chesney played there in 2011, he drew 50,548 fans.

Each performer will have his own set and the pair, who released the dual single "Feel Like a Rock Star" in anticipation of the tour, will join together to top off the night. Potter will likely join Chesney for a rendition of their steamy hit "You and Tequila." And McGraw, fresh off a new deal with Big Machine Records, will unveil news songs he's been working on for his next album.

"You try to entertain the last guy that you see in the very top row back there," McGraw said. "Make him feel special, make him feel like his money was worth it."

Review: `Snow White' a gorgeous take on fairy tale

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE CRITIC

Astonishingly beautiful and breathtaking in its brutal imagery, "Snow White & the Huntsman" is thrilling and frightening in equal measure, yet as bereft of satisfying substance as a poisoned apple.

Rupert Sanders' revisionist take on the classic Brothers Grimm fable, the first feature from the respected British commercial director, upends expectations of traditional gender roles while simultaneously embracing what a fairy tale should be. It's dark and dangerous, vicious and violent. Yes, there are dwarves and adorable, furry woodland creatures but more often, death is a constant threat.

And yet the performances—notably from Kristen Stewart as the iconic title character—don't always live up to the film's visionary promise. First, there's the problem of casting anyone who's supposed to be fairer than Charlize Theron as the evil queen. But beyond Stewart's distractingly inconsistent British accent, she simply lacks the presence to serve as a convincing warrior princess. She's too slight, her Snow White seems too reticent and insecure as she leads her minions into battle, and she still relies on all those Bella Swan tics that define her performances in the "Twilight" movies: the sulking and sighing, the skittish side glances.

Theron, at the opposite end of the spectrum, tends to get too screechy; with her imposing height, deep voice and mesmerizing beauty, she's far more powerful when she dials it down. She's long been willing to play deeply flawed and even cruel characters, but here she gets downright campy at times. Still, she is always a startling vision to behold in Oscar-winning costume designer Colleen Atwood's dramatic, intricate dresses and crowns.

The look and the energy of "Snow White & the Huntsman" are what keep it engaging, if a bit overlong.

Theron, as the magical and manipulative Ravenna, has married (and quickly killed) the widower king, locked his daughter Snow White in a tower and plunged a once-peaceful realm into a wasteland of misery and strife. Once Snow comes of age and earns her fairest-of-them-all status, Ravenna's power is threatened, and nothing short of eating the princess' heart will sustain her.

This sets the film's chase in motion: Snow White escapes, and Ravenna hires a veteran huntsman (Chris Hemsworth) to track her down in a treacherous place known as the Dark Forest. But instead, this tormented soul ends up becoming her reluctant protector, which means Ravenna must send yet another team of bad guys to find them both. Hemsworth, the hunky "Thor" star, continues to solidify his intriguing screen presence; he's got the looks and swagger of a bigger, bulkier Brad Pitt but also gets to show off his vulnerability and even some comic timing, too.

And laughs are hard to find around here, which is why it's so surprising to see our old friends the dwarves show up; given that everything else about this telling of the familiar fairy tale is so different, you don't really expect them. There are eight of them, not seven, and they certainly don't whistle while they work; similar to the dwarves in the other Snow White movie this year, the jokey, ornate "Mirror Mirror," they're scoundrels and thieves making mischief in the forest.

But it's the way they're presented once they meet Snow and the huntsman that's the real surprise, and it may cause you to do a double take. Sanders has rounded up a veritable who's-who of esteemed British character actors—including Ian McShane, Toby Jones, Bob Hoskins, Ray Winstone, Nick Frost and Eddie Marsan—and, through some digital trickery, seamlessly depicted them as little people.

It's just one of many examples of meticulous detail in the film, from the menacing trees that come alive in the Dark Forest to the hauntingly enchanted animals and fairies that greet Snow White and her new posse of pals as they continue along their arduous trek toward safety and, eventually, back to the kingdom to reclaim her rightful throne.

AP

This film image released by Universal Pictures shows Kristen Stewart in a scene from "Snow White and the Huntsman".

There are no Rodents of Unusual Size, to borrow from "The Princess Bride," but every other fantastical creature is here so they'd be right at home. And if there were, Snow would be the one to slay them. It's certainly admirable to see this character depicted as a strong, capable woman rather than a damsel in distress, and it's a great role model for girls in the audience (although little kids might find much of the imagery too nightmarish; adults might, too, for that matter).

But it does make you wonder how Snow White, who's been trapped in a tower for the entirety of her adolescence, knows how to ride a horse and wield a sword like some bad-ass in "Braveheart."

"Snow White & the Huntsman," a Universal Pictures release, is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, and brief sensuality. Running time: 125 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Motion Picture Association of America rating definitions:

G—General audiences. All ages admitted.

NY suit over 'Spider-Man' musical airs in court

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge warned lawyers at the end of a two-hour hearing Friday that she may narrow the scope of a lawsuit stemming from the Broadway production of "Spider-Man."

U.S. District Judge Katherine Forrest said she had not yet decided whether to eliminate from the litigation a three-page outline that Director Julie Taymor created before the musical's script was written and before she was fired last year and the script was rewritten.

In a lawsuit, Taymor said the current hit Broadway production, "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark," was based on the unlawful use of her copyrighted written works. It said producers did not honor her right to approve changes to her book of the musical, and they have refused to pay her contractually guaranteed authorship royalties. The lawsuit said damages would exceed $1 million, and included demands for profits resulting from the unauthorized use of her material.

Taymor, who was not in court Friday, was fired in 2011 as the $75 million production sputtered despite three months of preview performances. The musical was rewritten and it successfully reopened. Taymor sued the producers in November and they countersued. The producers say Taymor's treatment was based on pre-existing "Spider-Man" comics and films.

During Friday's arguments, attorney Dale Cendali argued on the producers' behalf, saying what Taymor wrote in her original proposal for the musical assembled the most obvious elements of comic books and Spider-Man movies. She noted that Taymor cited the Spider-Man movie in her proposal, known as a treatment.

Cendali said she had "never seen a case where someone made a more blatant admission that they were copying an earlier work."

She added: "They can't monopolize Spider-Man. They don't own Spider-Man."

Arguing on behalf of Taymor, attorney Charles Spada insisted that his client created new material for the Broadway production, including a new character playing a pivotal role.

"There is originality," he said. "This is not just a case about a compilation."

AP

In this Sept. 10, 2010 file photo, Julie Taymor, director of the musical "Spider-Man Turn Off The Dark," is photographed in New York.

The judge said she would like to view a video of the Broadway production, though Cendali said she wanted precautions taken to ensure it does not appear on the Internet.

At one point, Forrest noted that she has special expertise on the hearing's subject.

"I've got a 10-year-old son. I know a lot about superheroes," she said.

The judge also is deciding the fate of counterclaims brought against Taymor by the show's producers. She did not hear arguments, saying she would rely on written submissions.

A trial is scheduled for January.

Edwards' mistress Rielle Hunter publishing memoir

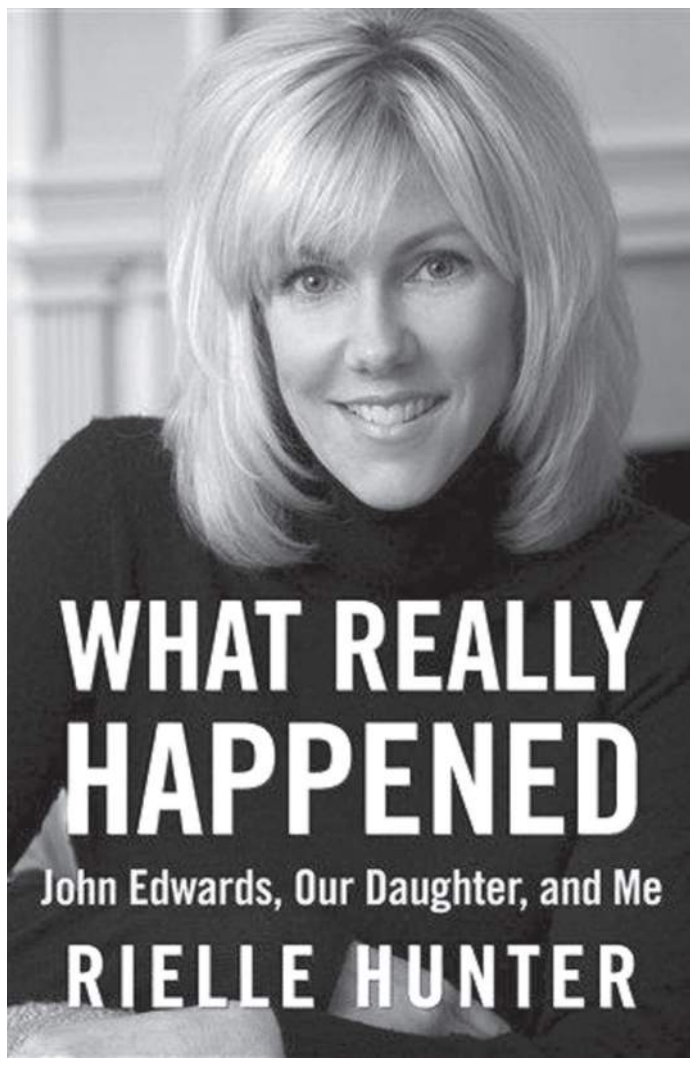
RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—John Edwards' mistress Rielle Hunter is publishing a memoir about her relationship with the former presidential candidate and their daughter.

Jennifer Canzoneri, marketing manager at Dallas-based BenBella Books, says "What Really Happened" is set to be released on June 26.

Edwards and Hunter had an affair while the Democrat was running for the White House in 2008 and have a daughter together, Frances Quinn Hunter.

On Thursday, a jury acquitted Edwards on one count of illegally accepting campaign contributions and deadlocked on five other charges. He had been accused of orchestrating a plan to use money from campaign donors to hide Hunter while he ran for the White House.

His relationship with Hunter currently remains unclear.



AP

This photo provided by RMT PR Management shows the cover of "What Really Happened," a memoir about Rielle Hunter, her relationship with former presidential candidate and Sen. John Edwards and their daughter.

Facebook, 'Grey's Anatomy' win GLAAD awards

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—GLAAD likes Facebook.

The social networking site won the Special Recognition Award at the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's 23rd annual Media Awards.

Other honorees at Saturday's ceremony in San Francisco included "Grey's Anatomy" for drama series, "Days of Our Lives" for daily drama series, Max J. Rosenthal of The Huffington Post for digital journalism article, Wells Fargo for the Corporate Leader Award and "Grey's Anatomy" creator Shonda Rhimes for the Golden Gate Award.

The awards salute fair, accurate and inclusive representation of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and the issues that affect their lives in the media. Other winners from among this year's 35 categories were honored at ceremonies in New York and Los Angeles earlier this year.

Oprah Winfrey launches 'Oprah's Book Club 2.0'

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey is back in the book club business, updated for the digital age.

"Oprah's Book Club 2.0," a joint project of Winfrey's OWN network and her O magazine, begins Monday with the popular memoir "Wild," Cheryl Strayed's story of her 1,100-mile hike along the Pacific Crest Trail in California and Washington. Besides the traditional paper version, featuring the circular Oprah book club logo, special e-editions will be made available that include Winfrey's comments and a reader's guide.

An interview with Strayed will air July 22 on OWN's "Super Soul Sunday" and on Oprah Radio. Readers will be able to share opinions through Facebook and Twitter and Winfrey's website, http://www.oprah.com.

"This is way different from the old book club," Winfrey said in an online video announcement, taped in her Chicago office and posted Friday on her website. "This time it's an interactive, online club for our digital world."

The new club will test whether Winfrey still has clout with the reading public, especially when her viewership is far smaller than years ago. Starting in the mid-1990s, Winfrey made hits out of dozens of books through her previous club, featured on her syndicated talk show. But sales had fallen by the time her show ended, in 2011. One of her last picks, a combined volume of Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" and "Great Expectations," was in part a victim of the e-book market as many readers simply downloaded free, public-domain versions of the novels.

AP

In this March 9, 2012 file photo, Oprah Winfrey accepts her DVF Lifetime Leadership Award at The Third Annual DVF Awards held at the United Nations in New York.

The initial response to Friday's announcement was slow compared to Winfrey's peak, when her choices topped bestseller charts within hours of her revealing them. As of Friday night, "Wild," had received a mild bump on Amazon.com's list, from No. 175 before Winfrey's pick to No. 97. "Wild" ranked No. 244 late Friday on the Kindle e-book charts.

"Wild" was published in March by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Inc.

AP

This April 16, 2012 file photo, shows actor Andy Samberg promoting his film, "That's My Boy", at the Summer of Sony 4 Spring Edition photo call in Cancun, Mexico.

Andy Samberg leaving 'Saturday Night Live'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Andy Samberg has wrapped his seven-season run on "Saturday Night Live," a spokeswoman for the actor-comedian said Friday.

Samberg won't return as a cast member next season, according to his publicist, Carrie Byalick. Samberg's exit follows that of "SNL" cast member Kristen Wiig.

Like other "Saturday Night Live" alumni, Samberg will be seen on the big screen. His new movie with Adam Sandler, "That's My Boy," is out this month.

Samberg's "SNL" highlights reel would feature his satiric rap videos including "Lazy Sunday" and a memorable one with Justin Timberlake about an X-rated gift in a box. The fake music video won an Emmy Award in 2007 for best original music and lyrics.

Wiig, Samberg and Jason Sudeikis, all of whom became cast members in the 2005-06 season, have been rumored to be leaving, with "SNL" creator and executive producer Lorne Michaels saying only that any decision would wait until summer.

That presumably meant no emotional on-air farewells.

But on the May 19 finale, Wiig got just that. In the last sketch of the night, guest host Mick Jagger played the principal at a high school graduation and brought up Wiig, in cap and gown, as a student who is "leaving this summer."

A tearful Wiig danced in turn with Jagger, cast members and Michaels to the tune of the Rolling Stones classic "She's a Rainbow."

Woman searches for recourse to ex-husband's public abuse

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm divorced with a young son. My ex-husband and I share joint custody, and for the most part it has worked well. My problem is that my ex is very bitter about our divorce and the fact I have moved on with my life. He constantly makes derogatory comments to me in front of our son and others.

It is bad enough that my son must witness this, but my ex has taken it a step further. He is the editor of a small newspaper and is now making disparaging comments about me in his column. He is trying to improve his image at my expense; however, I am unable to respond because he won't print a rebuttal in his paper.

The abuse continues despite the divorce, but now the audience is wider. Is this ethical journalism, and how can I put a stop to it?

FRUSTRATED EX

DEAR FRUSTRATED EX: Using a newspaper column to continue a personal vendetta over a failed marriage is not ethical journalism, although it may make for titillating reading. You do not have to tolerate his public sniping. Take the offensive clippings to your lawyer and ask him or her to write a strong letter to the publisher of the newspaper -- because THAT'S who will be liable if there are grounds for a lawsuit.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I attended a wedding in September of last year. We purchased expensive crystal for the bride and groom, which cost us nearly $600. This was separate from the bridal shower gift we gave them in May. We have not received thank-you notes for either of these gifts.

My husband told me that you have said it's appropriate to send thank-you notes up to one year after the wedding. My mother taught me to send them as quickly as possible.

My sister had her wedding thank-you notes out in three weeks, and I had mine out in two weeks. My sister and I both worked and were setting up new households with our husbands, but we felt it was a priority. We wanted to ensure that our family and friends knew how much their thoughtfulness was appreciated.

Can you please clarify thank-you note etiquette? I am tired of wondering if my gifts were received and appreciated.

DISGUSTED IN DELAWARE

DEAR DISGUSTED: I have said in the past that a thank-you note anytime is better than none at all. However, good manners dictate that thank-you notes should follow within three months at the latest, and preferably within one month—regardless of whether the giver has been thanked verbally.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work in the medical field and have recently learned about a campaign that was launched in England. It urges people to store the word "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in their cellphone address book, along with the phone number of the person you would want contacted.

It's such a simple idea, but it could be extremely helpful in an emergency situation. It would save ambulance crews and hospital staff precious time and ensure that a patient's loved ones are contacted as quickly as possible.

If you agree the idea is worthwhile, please mention it in your column and help to get this initiated in the United States.

TANYA F., MIAMI

DEAR TANYA: The idea is certainly worth considering; however, I would offer a minor adjustment. I would recommend that it be indexed under "Emergency Contact" rather than an obscure heading such as "ICE."

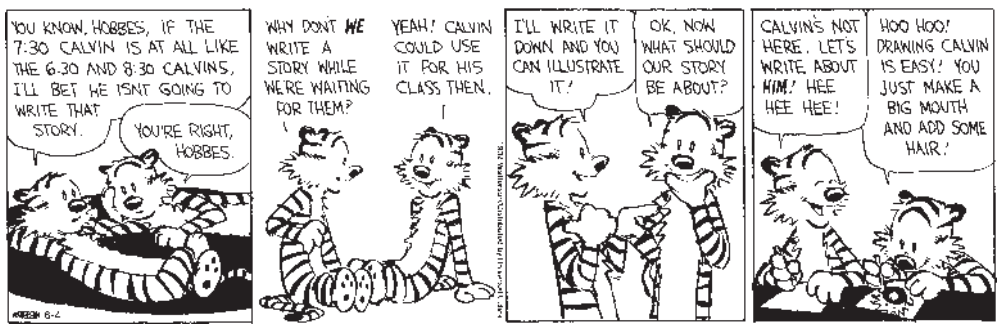
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU KNOW, HOBBES, IF THE 7:30 CALVIN IS AT ALL LIKE THE 6:30 AND 8:30 CALVINS, I'LL BET HE ISN'T GOING TO WRITE THAT STORY.
YOU'RE RIGHT, HOBBES.
WHY DON'T WE WRITE A STORY WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THEM?
YEAH! CALVIN COULD USE IT FOR HIS CLASS THEN.
I'LL WRITE IT DOWN AND YOU CAN ILLUSTRATE IT!
OK. NOW WHAT SHOULD OUR STORY BE ABOUT?
CALVIN'S NOT HERE. LET'S WRITE ABOUT HIM! HEE HEE HEE!
HOO HOO! DRAWING CALVIN IS EASY! YOU JUST MAKE A BIG MOUTH AND ADD SOME HAIR!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THIS HAS BEEN A GOOD DAY
IT HAS?
MAN, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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JIM DAVIS 6-4

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HI, MR. McCAFFREY. HOW'S EVERYTHING?
WOULD I LIKE TO PLAY GOLF AT YOUR CLUB?
WELL, I'M NOT MUCH OF A GOLFER.
OKAY. WELL... IS YOUR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY UP TO DATE?
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www.COMICS.com
6-4

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DO YOU HAVE ANY CARDS THAT SAY, "I WANT TO BREAK UP WITH YOU... CARD
"AND I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR DORKY FACE EVER AGAIN"?
SO, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL ME?
THIS IS GOING TO BE HARDER THAN I THOUGHT.
6/4

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

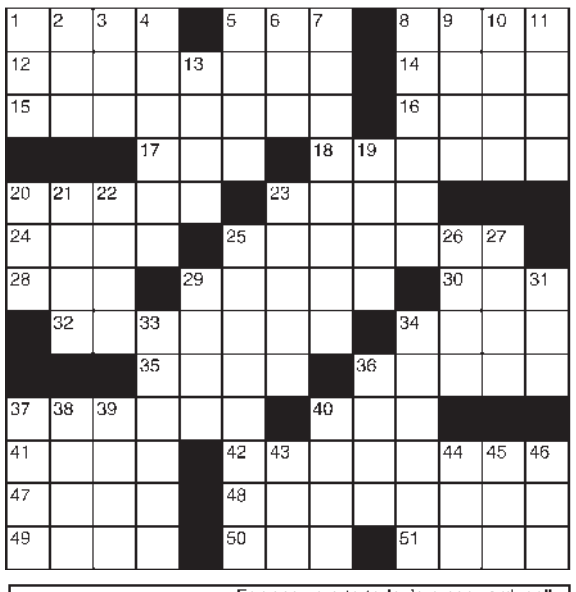
ACROSS
1 Poi base
5 State of matter
8 Cauldron concoction
12 Start
14 Unusual
15 Minimum score on a golf course
16 One
17 Lamprey, e.g.
18 Invigorants
20 Hurricane, for one
23 Ill will
24 Crones
25 Straightest path
28 Blunder
29 Gladiatorial venue
30 Work measure
32 Harbor city
34 React in horror
35 Chest muscles, for short
36 "For — sake!"
37 Man's hat style
40 — Lanka
41 Quite enthusiastic
42 "South Pacific" song with lyrics in French
47 Lion's pride?
48 GOP symbol
49 Lip
50 Stitch
51 War god

DOWN
1 Cravat
2 Blackbird
3 Tractor-trailer
4 "Do unto — ..."
5 Highlander
6 Dined
7 Aware
8 Southeast Asian sultanate
9 Hindu princess
10 Idle of Monty Python
11 Drenches
13 Thing
19 — podrida
20 That woman
21 Pitches
22 Fairy tale meanie
23 Bar orders
25 Silk fabrics with raised patterns
26 Spruced up
27 5-Down's language
29 Mimic
31 Navigational gizmo, for short
33 Orbital high point
34 Oriental entertainer/companion
36 Get ready
37 Notoriety
38 "Zounds!"
39 Money of Vietnam
40 Bouillabaisse, e.g.
43 — -de-France
44 Scratch
45 Individual
46 "— Impossible"

Solution time: 24 mins.

H	A	D	J	■	O	A	T	H	■	W	A	G
E	S	A	U	■	P	U	R	E	■	A	I	L
F	E	R	N	■	P	L	A	N	■	I	D	O
T	A	T	E	■	O	D	D	■	S	T	E	W
■	■	■	C	C	S	■	F	W	F	■	■	■
V	O	R	A	L	E	■	R	E	C	A	L	L
I	N	U	R	E	■	■	■	D	O	N	E	E
D	O	G	T	A	G	■	I	G	N	I	T	E
■	■	■	E	R	A	■	N	E	D	■	■	■
H	A	I	R	■	R	O	D	■	W	I	S	P
O	F	F	■	L	A	K	E	■	I	D	L	E
O	A	F	■	O	G	R	E	■	N	E	A	T
F	R	Y	■	B	F	A	D	■	D	A	T	A

Saturday's answer 6-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bar Refaeli, 27; Russell Brand, 37; Angelina Jolie, 37; Noah Wyle, 41.

Happy Birthday: Keep close tabs on what everyone around you is doing. Don't let assumptions lead you in the wrong direction. Ask questions and focus on your relationships to avoid mishaps and encourage greater opportunity and advancement. Love is in the stars, and doing a little extra to keep the peace will pay off. Your numbers are 3, 8, 13, 23, 28, 35, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make changes now. Develop your ideas and plans, and discuss your intentions with someone who will contribute. Don't get flustered or try to cut corners. Accidents will set you back. Take your time and do things right. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take care of any financial or personal paperwork. Procrastinating will lead to anxiety and stress. Being proactive and well-prepared will impress, leading to fortunate opportunities. Take care of ailments or injuries quickly. Collect on old debts. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Relationships count, so don't terminate a partnership that can offer you something in the future. Financial gains can be made, as long as you stick to a set budget. Emotions will escalate. You cannot buy love, but you can win it with affection. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Deal with institutions, government agencies or any matters that can affect you financially or medically. Stifle anyone trying to take advantage of you in order to avoid a stressful situation. Assess, do what's necessary and move on quickly. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Caring, sharing and helping others will lead to high returns. Taking on responsibilities will show your capabilities and should be embraced. Love and romance will play out in your favor. Generosity and kindness will bring great success. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Radical changes may be tempting, but the consequences would be too great to consider moving forward. There will be too many obstacles to overcome. Opportunities will come from picking up the pieces after someone else fails to excel. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll capture the attention of the people most likely to support your efforts. Your contribution will bring about prospects that can help you establish your presence in an area you want to dominate. Partnerships will improve. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Use your intuition regarding financial or domestic decisions. Consider signing an agreement, but don't give in to demands that don't promise results. Take greater interest in your community or past relationships. Don't spend foolishly. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Embrace change as well as challenges. Use established connections to get the results you want. Love and romance are in the stars, and favorable alterations to your current living arrangements will lead to greater happiness. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look at all aspects of any contract or deal you are trying to get launched. Don't look for ordinary solutions when a more obscure approach is required. Forget past squabbles and reunite with someone from your past who can help you now. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Socialize, network, share ideas and formulate agreements. Suggestions will be worth considering, and mixing business with pleasure will bring a friendly atmosphere to whatever you are trying to accomplish, ensuring success. A proposal looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Someone will want to ruin your plans. Don't allow criticism to slow your progress. Rethink your strategy and incorporate suggestions. Don't misinterpret someone's interest. Ulterior motives are likely. Resolve injuries or ailments quickly. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are fun, bright, adventuresome and quick to make a choice.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	4		2		7		9	8
				6				
	5	2		8		7	1	
4				1				3
	9	5	3		8	1	6	
8				9				7
	8	3		4		6	2	
				2				
7	2		8		6		3	1

Difficulty Level ★ 6/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	9	1	7	2	5	6	3
7	3	1	6	5	4	8	9	2
2	6	5	3	9	8	7	4	1
6	1	2	7	8	3	9	5	4
8	9	7	4	2	5	3	1	6
5	4	3	9	6	1	2	7	8
3	5	6	8	4	7	1	2	9
9	7	8	2	1	6	4	3	5
1	2	4	5	3	9	6	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/04

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BBQ PARTIES Solution: 10 letters

H	G	C	F	S	T	S	S	R	H	D	M	R	A	F
O	A	O	E	P	N	A	E	B	E	E	R	I	E	I
T	T	M	E	U	L	M	S	S	A	S	M	E	L	L
D	H	M	B	M	M	A	S	T	E	N	D	E	R	E
O	E	U	O	U	U	E	N	M	Y	C	R	U	S	T
G	Ⓡ	N	S	C	R	O	A	K	R	K	O	C	A	A
S	I	Ⓘ	E	T	M	G	S	S	O	O	B	E	U	N
E	N	T	Ⓑ	E	H	T	E	K	V	O	H	B	S	I
C	G	Y	L	Ⓢ	E	Y	A	R	A	C	G	R	A	R
I	R	O	V	A	L	F	F	I	S	H	I	A	G	A
P	L	T	K	I	A	R	O	P	E	W	E	B	E	M
S	E	L	M	T	M	I	O	O	W	I	N	G	S	U
L	U	A	B	S	B	E	D	R	G	N	I	R	P	S
O	F	S	C	O	R	N	A	K	B	E	N	C	H	I
W	K	C	I	H	T	D	B	N	E	K	C	I	H	C

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Barbecue, Beef, Beer, Bench, Buns, Chicken, Community, Cook, Corn, Crust, Dessert, Family, Farm, Feed, Filet, Fish, Flavor, Friend, Fuel, Games, Gathering, Hamburgers, Host, Hot Dogs, Lamb, Lemon, Marinate, Meat, Music, Neighbor, Plank, Pork, Ribs, Salmon, Salt, Sauce, Sausages, Savory, Seafood, Slow, Smell, Spices, Spring, Steak, Summer, Tasty, Tender, Thick, Wine, Wings

Last Saturday's Answer: Forearm

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35 and $4.50 for 1st item and $3.50 for each additional item, plus $3 postage for the 1st item and 50¢ for each additional book. Send to: WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order all 11 books and receive a 12th book FREE (a $35.45 value).

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
Rake in the money

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Building Maintenance. Part-time only. Minimum salary. Three Way International Inc. Tel. 788-7270

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Sandy Beach Homes 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695/mo 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.net

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

LAWN CARE SERVICE
(BUSH CUTTING)
CALL: 287-0319

LOOKING TO BUY USED CARS
• Toyota Corolla and Yaris
2010 and up.
We are also interested in
7 seater Jeep
2007 and up.
*All vehicles must be in good condition.
Call 287-8484

Help Wanted

Housekeeper/Caregiver

- Must have a U.S. Passport or Greencard.
- Willing to relocate/work in Hawaii.

Please send resume and contact information to: caregiver.670@gmail.com

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN

Guest Services Agent

Qualifications: Minimum 2 years work experience in providing quality customer service preferably in hotel operations. Guest Services Agent is responsible for providing guest with fast, friendly and efficient service. Strong problem solving skills is essential and must be able to multi-task and work independently. Frequent walking and standing on the job is required. Must be able to lift and carry up to 30 pounds and can work a flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays. Foreign language speaking skill in Japanese, Korean or Chinese is highly preferred.

Application may be obtained from Fiesta Resort's security office located on the South Wing. Closing date for applications to be submitted and considered is June 8th.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012 Closing Date: Until Filled

JVA 12-011 Trades Technician (Mechanic, at least six (6) positions, depending on funding)
JVA 12-012 Trades Technician (Electrician, at least two (2) positions, depending on funding)
JVA 12-013 Trades Technician (Operator, at least four (4) positions, depending on funding)
JVA 12-014 Trades Technician (Machinist, at least one (1) positions, depending on funding)
JVA 12-015 Trades Technician (Welder, at least two (2) positions, depending on funding)

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.

For more detailed information, contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0143**
-v-	:	
ESTEBAN SARALU BUEKIS and KIKIKO K. BUEKIS, Defendants.	:	

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 15, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1243, situated in Kagman III, Phase IV, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 948 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 011 G 23 dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 96-2566, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 19th day of May, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Technical Maintenance Coordinator**
Opening Date: May 28, 2012
Closing Date: June 13, 2012

Starting Salary: **PL 26/01 to PL 26/12 ($18,584.42 to $31,757.68 per annum)**

Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, June 13, 2012 **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than June 13, 2012, to the Acting Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jskaipat@nmhcgov.net NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Acting Corporate Director

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

EURO
DOLLAR
NICKEL
PENNY

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Find today's solution in classified section

Durant powers Thunder past Spurs, 109-103

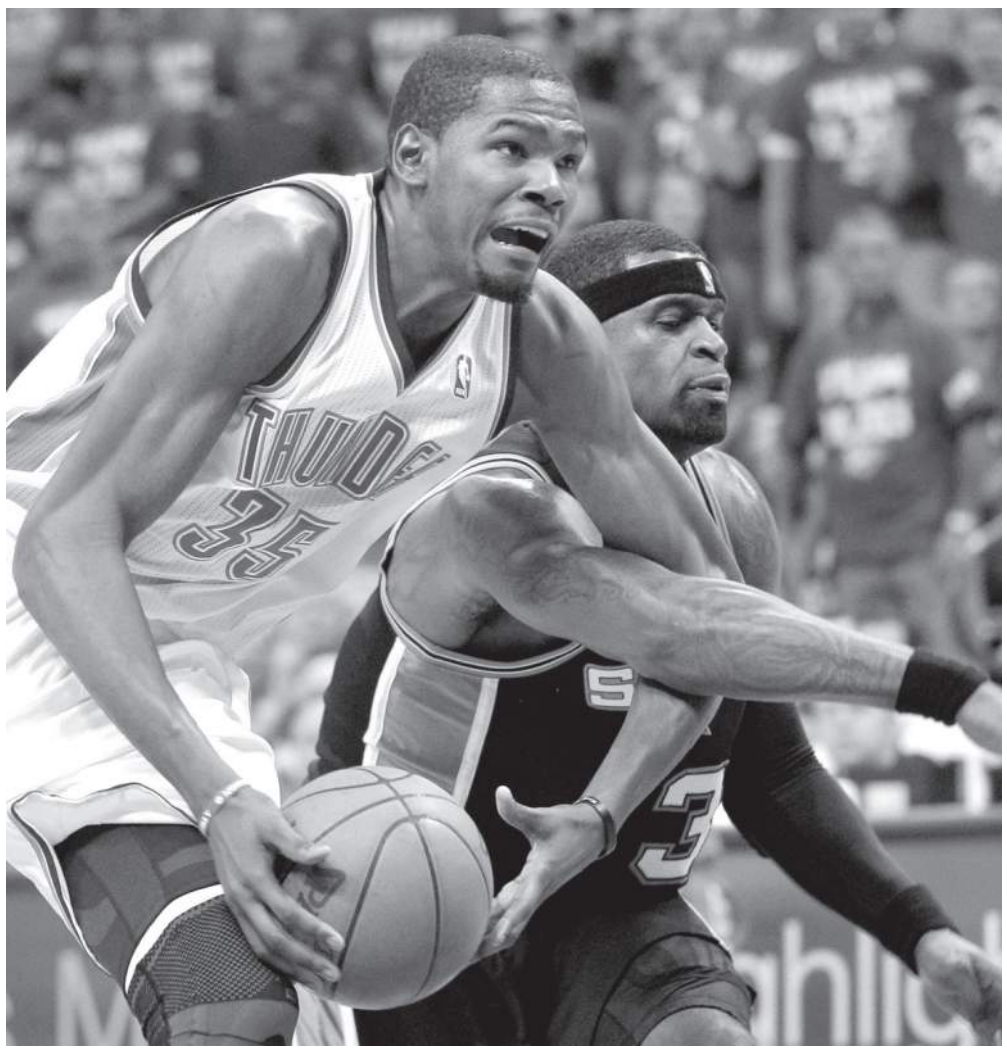
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) -- When Lil Wayne turned down Kevin Durant's invitation to watch the Oklahoma City Thunder in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals, he missed quite a show by the three-time scoring champion.

Durant scored 18 of his 36 points in a scintillating final 7 minutes, Serge Ibaka added a career-high 26 points and the Thunder evened the series at two games apiece by beating the San Antonio Spurs 109-103 Saturday night.

After seeing his team's 15-point lead dwindle to four, Durant took over midway through the fourth quarter by scoring all 16 of the Thunder's points during a span of just over 5 minutes to keep the Spurs at bay.

"I didn't tell myself that I need to go score because what we were doing was working," Durant said.

"We were passing the ball and guys were making shots. ... I just wanted to stick with what we were doing, but it started to open up for me and I could see some lanes that gave me some opportunities to make some shots."



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) is wrapped up with San Antonio Spurs guard Stephen Jackson (3) during the first half of Game 4 of the Western Conference finals, Saturday, June 2, 2012, in Oklahoma City.

With All-Star teammate Russell Westbrook limited to seven points, Durant did almost all of the damage late to send the series back to San Antonio all square for Game 5 on Monday night.

Durant, who finished behind only LeBron James in MVP voting, hit three straight jumpers, the last one coming after he bumped into Tony Parker in the lane to draw a foul and set up a three-point play. Then he attacked the rim for his next three baskets, getting to the line again when he was fouled on a layup off of James Harden's alley-oop.

Durant hit another jumper after coming off a Westbrook screen for the last basket in his personal run - and the Spurs were still within striking distance. Rookie Kawhi Leonard bracketed a pair of 3-pointers around that Durant jumper, and the Spurs were only down 102-96 with 1:24 left.

The Spurs succeeded in getting the ball out of Durant's hands on the next possession, only for him to provide the assist on Harden's 3-pointer from the left wing that bumped the lead to nine.

"When a player that talented gets hot, it's really hard to contain," San Antonio's Manu Ginobili said. "We tried different things and they didn't work.

"He scored a bunch in a short period of time. When we tried to blitz or really help, he kicked it and they made big shots."

Durant hit two free throws in the final minute to help close it out.

"We tried to do a couple of different things but his play was better than anything we did defensively, that's for sure," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "He finished it off in fine fashion."

Before the game, Durant said he still hoped to convince Lil Wayne to come see a game in Oklahoma City after the rapper created a stir before Game 3 by tweeting he was denied access and followed it up by saying he felt "unwanted" at Chesapeake Energy Arena.

With another big closing effort, Durant provided another reason to catch the Thunder in the playoffs.

"I just want to be calm and composed and poised in those situations and make the right basketball play," Durant said. "I just try to calm down and go with my instincts."

Oklahoma City is trying to become the 15th team in NBA history to overcome an 0-2 deficit in a seven-game series, and the eighth to do it since 2004. The Thunder avoided an even trickier task by winning.

Only eight teams have ever overcome a 3-1 hole, and only two had done it while needing two wins on the road - the 1995 Rockets and 1968 Celtics.

"We've just got to go down there with the mindset that we're going to play hard every possession, play together like we've played in these last two games and we'll see what happens," Durant said.

"We've just got to keep believing, man, and we'll be fine."

Tim Duncan had 21 points for San Antonio, which had won 20 in a row before losing Game 3. Leonard added 17 points and nine rebounds.

The Spurs wiped away most of a 15-point deficit with a run that coincided with Popovich turning to DeJuan Blair, who's had some notoriously big games against the Thunder but had occupied a spot on the bench for most of the playoffs after starting 62 of the 66 regular-season games.

Blair sprung free for a layup early in an 18-5 comeback, and Ginobili's 3-pointer from the top of the key trimmed Oklahoma City's lead to 73-71 with 1:16 to go in the third quarter.

The Spurs were within four after Duncan's left-handed runner with 6:55 left in the game. That's when Thunder coach Scott Brooks called a timeout, and Durant came out of it firing away. He made seven of his last eight shots and also finished with eight assists and six rebounds.

"It was hard because were on a run, we were feeling good about ourselves and we just couldn't make a stop," Ginobili said.

Ibaka made all 11 of his shots - and all four of his free throws - to lead a strong performance from Oklahoma City's frontcourt while Durant's usual running mates, Westbrook and Harden, both struggled.

Ibaka, starting center Kendrick Perkins and reserve Nick Collison combined to go 22 for 25 from the field for 49 points. Westbrook missed eight of his 10 shots and Harden was limited to eight points.

The Thunder shot 56 percent and outrebounded San Antonio 41-31.

Oklahoma City pulled ahead to stay with a 12-3 run early in the second quarter with Durant and Westbrook both taking a break. Westbrook nailed a 3-pointer from the left side soon after returning to provide the Thunder's first double-digit lead at 43-33 with 4:44 to go before halftime.

Wade: I will find a way to be effective Sunday

BOSTON (AP)—Everywhere Dwyane Wade turned, two Boston Celtics seemed to be waiting.

And as long as Chris Bosh is out, he understands it's probably going to stay that way. The Celtics can double-team him without fear, knowing LeBron James is the only other Miami player who can consistently hurt them.

Wade scored only 18 points Friday in the Heat's 101-91 loss in Game 3, snapping his streak of 12 straight 20-point playoff games against Boston that was the longest since Jerry West had 18 in a row from 1966-69.

Wade isn't expecting Bosh back from his lower abdominal strain Sunday in Game 4, so the scheme probably won't change. But he vows that his performance will.

"I'm not coming here crying," he said Saturday. "I can score the basketball, I've just got to find other ways to do that. It might not be a 41-point effort like it was in Indiana, you never know what each game takes, but I'm just going to go out here and play the game that I played for so many years and I will find a way to be effective."

Wade shot 9 of 20 in his second-lowest scoring performance of this postseason, after a five-point effort in Game 3 of the second round against Indiana. He was struggling with knee pain then, but insisted there was nothing wrong physically now.

The only problem, he said, was the two defenders closing on him whenever he came off a pick or caught the ball anywhere near the lane. He was also largely contained in Game 2, managing only 15 points in regulation before scoring eight in overtime to help the Heat pull out a 115-111 victory.

"As a team, we have to figure out ways to exploit the double team," James said. "As his teammates, we've got to make ourselves available to make plays for ourselves, and also when the double team is not there early on offense, we've got to get the ball to him early so he can attack without a double team."

Wade didn't attempt a free throw for the first time in a playoff game since 2004, when he was a rookie, and managed just six points on 3-of-9 shooting in the first half. Still, he was far from the only problem for the Heat.

"You look at all the effort areas we dominated the first two games, we got our butt kicked in all of them last night," said coach Erik Spoelstra, rolling through the list quickly as if afraid he'd forget one if he stopped for a breath.

"Points in the paint, they pounded us. Rebounding, they pounded us. Free throws, they beat us. Layup attempts, they beat us. Every area that has to do with toughness and effort we lost, and in the first two games we were winning those categories. Loose balls, 50-50 opportunities."

That's because the Celtics realized that's the only way they can beat such a talented opponent.

Spencer Levin leads Memorial heading into final round

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Spencer Levin realizes that a one-shot lead going into the final round means next to nothing. If he didn't learn this by blowing a six-shot lead at the Phoenix Open earlier this year, he was reminded of it on the back nine Saturday at the Memorial.

For the longest time, Levin simply couldn't miss. He chipped in for eagle from behind the fifth green. He holed a chip from 30 yards short of the 10th green for birdie, this one giving him a four-shot lead on a tough day at Muirfield Village.

Eight holes later, his lead was down to one over Rory Sabbatini.

If that wasn't enough, a collection of stars and proven players were lined up behind him - including four-time Memorial champion Tiger Woods.

Levin relied on a few good breaks and one good par save to match the low round of the day with a 3-under 69, giving him another chance at his first PGA Tour victory and an opportunity to get into the U.S. Open on Sunday without having to go through a 36-hole qualifier.

The circumstances are far different from when Levin lost that six-shot lead in Phoenix, not only the margin but the caliber of players chasing him. He'll find out Sunday if he learned from his failure, though the self-styled Californian already is loaded with perspective.

"I did learn that I still got to play golf, I still got to eat the same stuff, still have the same friends, still have the same family, so nothing really changed," he said. "Obviously, you want to win when you're in positions. But I'm just going to go out there tomorrow and have fun. Nothing really changed in my life, and I don't think anything will change that big in my life if I do win. It's just going out there and try and do my best."

It might take more than that.

Levin, who had one of only three rounds in the 60s, was at 8-under 208 and will play in the final group with Sabbatini, a six-time PGA Tour winner who shot 71.

The attention figures to be on the twosome in front of them - Rickie Fowler (69), the Quail Hollow winner who has been playing his best golf over the last month, and Woods, whose other win this year came in demanding conditions at Bay Hill. Woods bogeyed two of the last three holes for a 73.

Right behind them were Ryo Ishikawa (71), Henrik Stenson (71) and Jonathan Byrd (72), with Vijay Singh (69) on the outskirts of contention, six shots behind.

"Four shots is definitely manageable around this golf course, considering the conditions and what they're going to be tomorrow," Woods said. "A lot of guys are still in this ballgame. It'll be an exciting day tomorrow."

Levin provided plenty of excitement during the first few hours Saturday.

For a guy who has never won, Levin is easy to identify. He twists and turns his body on just about every shot, willing it to turn in various directions. He rarely is without a cigarette. And he lets the world know exactly what he's thinking. This is not the stereotype of a golfing robot.

If he sounds as if winning or losing doesn't matter, don't believe it.

Player apologizes; Sharapova advances to fourth

AP

Russia's Maria Sharapova returns the ball to China's Peng Shuai during their third round match in the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Saturday, June 2, 2012. Sharapova won, 6-2, 6-1.

PARIS (AP)—If love means never having to say you're sorry, what about 6-love?

Depends which side of the French Open scoreboard you're on, apparently.

Maria Sharapova feels not a shred of remorse about the way she's been finishing off opponents quickly - a total of five games lost through three matches at Roland Garros this year, including a 6-0, 6-0 win in the first round.

The 27th-seeded Mikhail Youzhny of Russia, meanwhile, was on the wrong end of a shutout set Saturday and decided he needed to apologize right then and there to the ticket-buyers in the seats at Court Suzanne Lenglen. Finally having won one game after losing the first eight against No. 6 David Ferrer of Spain, Youzhny used the toe of his right sneaker to carve a mea culpa in the red clay near the baseline.

He etched out ''SORRi!'' - stamping the dot atop the lowercase last letter for emphasis before heading to the sideline for a changeover.

''People in the stands may not have noticed, but I think I had to do this,'' Youzhny said after his 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 loss.

''There was a lot of people. That's why I write 'sorry' - because I can't show them a nice game,'' he explained. ''The way we played in the beginning, it was not really interesting for people.''

Ferrer, who said he didn't see Youzhny's lettering, was part of Spain's 5-0 showing Saturday, led by Rafael Nadal, who continued his bid for a record seventh French Open title by overpowering Eduardo Schwank of Argentina 6-1, 6-3, 6-4.

''Now the first week has gone by,'' said Nadal, who gets a day off Sunday, his 26th birthday. ''It's always the most complicated week to manage.''

The other Spaniards who moved on were No. 12 Nicolas Almagro, No. 13 Juan Monaco and No. 20 Marcel Granollers, a five-set winner against Paul-Henri Mathieu, the Frenchman who edged John Isner in an 18-16 fifth set in the second round.

The second-seeded Sharapova's matches haven't contained a shred of intrigue so far. Not surprisingly, that's absolutely OK with her.

After a 6-2, 6-1 victory over No. 28 Peng Shuai put her in the fourth round, Sharapova was asked whether any part of her feels bad for someone paying a lot of money to watch an hour or so of tennis.

''The last thing that's on my mind when I'm going out on court is thinking about who paid for a ticket and how long they're going to watch my match for,'' said Sharapova, who is trying to complete a career Grand Slam by winning her first French Open championship. ''I mean, I'm not sure if that's selfish or not, but my job is to go out on the court and to try to win. Whether it's 6-0, 6-0, whether it's a tough three-set match, you're trying to do what you have to do.''

Sharapova's section of the draw seems to be getting a bit easier by the hour.

One potential quarterfinal opponent, 13-time major champion Serena Williams, lost in the first round. Another, former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki, exited 6-1, 6-7 (3), 6-3 against No. 23 Kaia Kanepi of Estonia. And a third, No. 25 Julie Goerges of Germany, was beaten 7-6 (5), 2-6, 6-2 by 88th-ranked Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands.

Wozniacki got into a couple of extended arguments over line calls with chair umpire Poncho Ayala, including about a second-set shot by Kanepi that landed near the baseline to earn a service break for the Estonian.

"How can you sit there and be so arrogant? Have you gone to school?" Wozniacki said to Ayala, drawing boos from spectators.

At her postmatch news conference, Wozniacki said: ''When the ball is clearly out, I don't think there should be anything to argue about. You know, if they cannot see, they should have other umpires on the lines or (use replay technology) on these courts. It's a disgrace that mistakes like this are made.''

Not only are Williams, Wozniacki and Goerges out of the way, but in the fourth round, Sharapova gets to face 44th-ranked Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic, who eliminated No. 22 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia 6-3, 7-5.

Also in Sharapova's half of the field, No. 12 Francesca Schiavone, the 2010 French Open champion, was a 3-6, 6-3, 8-6 loser against Varvara Lepchenko, who joined 19-year-old Sloane Stephens to give the United States two unseeded women in the fourth round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in 10 years.

''I don't think it's the right way to look at things to see somebody lose and say, 'Oh, well, now the draw is open.' ... You can't go about playing a Grand Slam like that,'' Sharapova said. ''You've got to be ready to face your toughest opponents from the first round, on. And if you're not ready, then you should probably not be here.''

Seattle ends Chicago hot streak

CHICAGO (AP) — Ichiro Suzuki homered twice, John Jaso hit a tiebreaking double in the 12th inning and the Seattle Mariners ended Chicago's nine-game winning streak by beating the White Sox 10-8 Saturday.

Jesus Montero led off the 10th with a double against Addison Reed (0-1). One out later, Jaso drove in pinch-runner Munenori Kawasaki. Chone Figgins followed with an RBI single.

Tom Wilhelmsen (2-1) pitched three scoreless innings, allowing one hit, for the victory. Hisashi Iwakuma earned his second save by pitching the 12th, retiring Adam Dunn on a grounder with a runner on second to end it.

Michael Saunders homered and had four of Seattle's 15 hits.

Chicago's Dayan Viciedo tied the game with a two-out solo homer in the eighth off Stephen Pryor — the eighth home run of the game, four by each team.

Red Sox 7, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Felix Doubront won for the fifth time in six starts, Nick Punto homered and Boston beat the Blue Jays.

Punto fell a triple shy of the cycle and drove in two runs to lead Boston to its 10th win in 14 games. Daniel Nava also had two RBIs as the Red Sox (28-25) moved a season-high three games above .500.

Athletics 9, Royals 3

In Kansas City, the struggling Athletics took advantage of some bumbling Kansas City defense to end a nine-game losing streak with a victory over the Royals.

Brandon McCarthy (4-3) came off the disabled list to throw six innings, Jemile Weeks reached base four times and Josh Reddick had a two-run triple during a four-run fifth for Oakland.

Orioles 2, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Brian Matusz gave up two hits in 7 1-3 innings and the Orioles ended a six-game losing streak by holding off the Rays.

Matusz (5-5) didn't give up a hit until the fifth inning. He struck out seven and walked three.

Reliever Pedro Strop got Ben Zobrist to ground into a bases-loaded double play in the eighth.

Twins 7, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Joe Mauer broke out of a slump with three hits and three RBIs, including a two-run homer, to lead Minnesota over the Indians.

Mauer entered the game in an 0-for-10 slide, but had an RBI single in Minnesota's four-run first inning. He also singled in the second and hit a two-run homer in the seventh off Tony Sipp.

Tigers 4, Yankees 3

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit two prodigious homers and Omir Santos' sacrifice fly in the ninth inning gave Detroit a wild 4-3 victory over the New York Yankees.

Detroit overcame a blown save by Jose Valverde (3-1) and an awful night of defense from Santos, a third-string catcher pressed into duty because of injuries. Santos made two errors and allowed five stolen bases — but his fly to right off Boone Logan with the bases loaded in the ninth was deep enough to score Brennan Boesch.

Angels 3, Rangers 2

In Anaheim, California, C.J. Wilson pitched six scoreless innings against his former teammates, Alberto Callaspo singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh and the surging Los Angeles Angels beat Texas to pull within 3_ games of the AL West-leading Rangers.

Bobby Cassevah (1-0) got two outs for the victory, the Angels' 10th in 11 games.

Giants 2, Cubs 1

In San Francisco, Matt Cain pitched into the ninth inning on the way to winning his fifth straight start and the San Francisco Giants beat the Chicago Cubs 2-1 on Saturday.

Aubrey Huff drew a bases-loaded walk to tie the game at 1 in the sixth, then San Francisco went ahead on an RBI fielder's choice by Joaquin Arias on which Huff broke up a would-be double play.

Mets 5, Cardinals 0

In New York, R.A. Dickey followed up Johan Santana's no-hitter by shutting out St. Louis, David Wright homered and the Mets beat the Cardinals.

Dickey (8-1) gave up seven hits, struck out nine and walked none in his third career shutout — first this season.

Marlins 5, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Hanley Ramirez hit two homers and drove in three runs to help the Marlins beat the Phillies.

Ricky Nolasco (6-3) allowed four runs on eight hits in seven-plus innings to improve to 6-1 in seven career starts at Philadelphia for the Marlins. Miami has won four of its last five and denied Cole Hamels (8-2) his ninth victory.

Nationals 2, Braves 0

In Washington, Stephen Strasburg pitched four-hit ball for seven sharp innings and Jesus Flores homered, leading the Nationals over the Braves.

Strasburg (6-1) completed seven shutout innings for the first time in his major league career. He opened the game with a flourish, striking out the first four Braves batters.

Dodgers 6, Rockies 2

In Denver, Aaron Harang pitched six strong innings, Bobby Abreu homered for the first time this year and the Dodgers ended a season-worst five-game losing streak with a win over the Rockies.

Andre Ethier and Elian Herrera had two hits and two RBIs each and James Loney also had two hits for the Dodgers.

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 2

In San Diego, Daniel Hudson pitched eight strong innings and Paul Goldschmidt homered, leading the Diamondbacks to a win over the Padres.

The Diamondbacks, who have scored two runs or less in three of their last four games, got an assist from San Diego reliever Joe Thatcher (0-1).

Brewers 5, Pirates 1

In Milwaukee, Brooks Conrad ended his 0-for-27 slump to start the season, hitting a homer and driving in three runs to lead the Brewers past the Pirates.

Shawn Marcum (4-3) pitched seven strong innings for Milwaukee, giving up five hits while striking out eight without a walk.

Reds 12, Astros 9

In Houston, Drew Stubbs homered and drove in four runs, Brandon Phillips added three RBIs and Cincinnati outlasted Houston to hand the Astros their eighth straight defeat.

Joey Votto went 4 for 4 with a home run and a walk. Todd Frazier and Ryan Ludwick also connected for the Reds, who set a season high for runs.

DLX/Irish Spring clobbers Star Water

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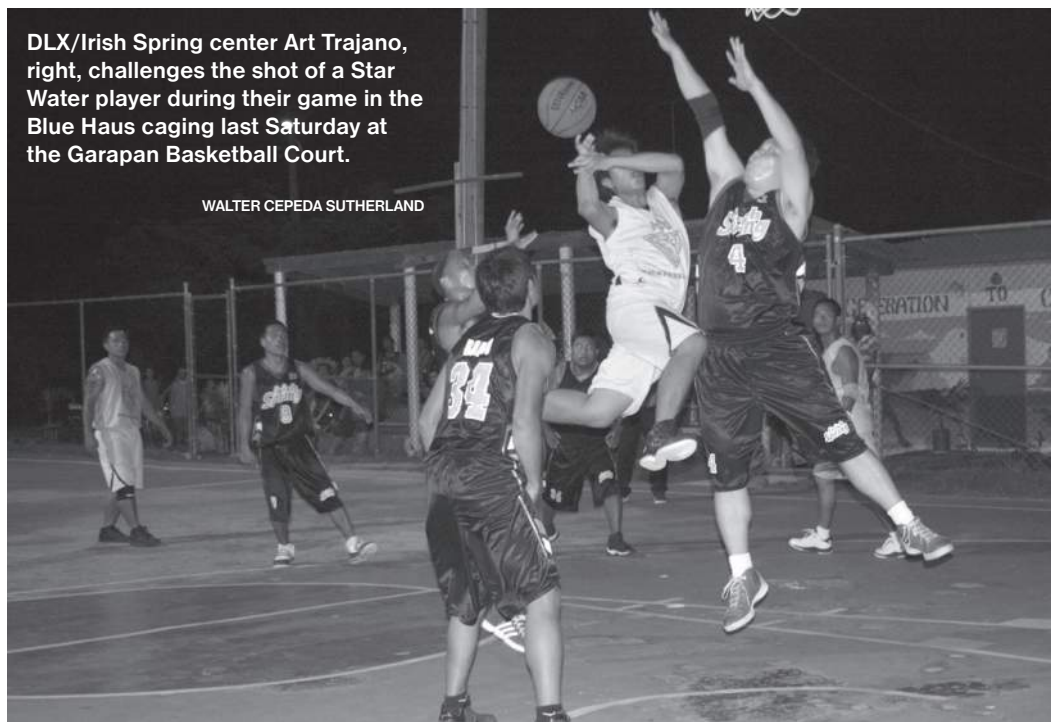

DLX/Irish Spring center Art Trajano, right, challenges the shot of a Star Water player during their game in the Blue Haus caging last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

DLX/Irish Spring crushed Star Water, 95-69, in the Division A game in the 2012 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League A last Saturday night at Garapan Basketball Court.

The win evened DLX's card to 1-1, while Star Water came up short in its first fully completed contest. QQ Rent-A-Car leads Division A with its 2-0, followed by Mobil (1-0) and R-Rebels (1-1)

DLX worked out an early 24-22 edge in the opening 10 minutes, thanks largely to the 9 points of Elmer Esdrelon. He added 6 more markers in the second quarter, as DLX stretched the lead at the half, 45-37. White Capalad led Star Water with 8 points through two frames.

Noel David took the reins for DLX after the break with his 8 points as they trudged ahead, 72-54, entering the final canto. Star Water was visibly exhausted mid way through the fourth quarter, as DLX coasted to an easy win.

Esdrelon led four other teammates in double figures with 16 points, tying Star Water's Manolo Manalo.

Notably, Star Water's Marlon De Dios was ejected during a timeout in the third quarter for getting cal 1-1 records,

Wanted Sponsor scrambled to an early 17-15 favor in the first quarter with Kae Bernardo scoring 8 points. He was held to just one basket in the second period, however, as NVM seized control at halftime, 36-31. Dennis Barzinas strung up two three-pointers for 8 points in the uprising, while Rocyl Ritual chipped in 7.

Wanted Sponsor remained undeterred and swiped the lead back, 58-56, heading into the payoff period. Bernardo muscled out 10 points to go with a trio of treys in the rally, while Banjo Basilla and Jun Pantaleon provided support with their combined 13 points.

The game remained tight through regulation before Peter Mendiola came off the bench for NVM and scored 10 big points in the clutch to help secure the victory.

Bernardo was held to 3 points early in the fourth quarter, and to make matters worse, his teammate, Gilbert Miranda, fouled out midway through the period.

Ritual scored 17 to lead four teammates in double digits, while Bernardo turned a game-high 23 on the short end.

The season continues Thursday night with Division B's Loving Hands Daycare (1-1) colliding with Saipan Hardware (2-0) at 6pm and DLX taking on Ashley's (0-2) at 8pm.

First Game

NVM 83 – Ritual 17, Mendiola 16, Barzinas 14, Joyner 12, Mina 11, Basa 8, Tobias 3, Manibusan 2.

Wanted Sponsor 77 – Bernardo 23, Pantaleon 14, Miranda 14, Basilla 10, Rollon 9, M. Capalad 4, Sablan 3.

Scoring by quarters:15-17, 36-31, 56-58, 83-77.

Second Game

DLX-Irish Spring 95 – Esdrelon 16, Galarse 13, David 12, Abedes 12, Trajano 10, Muleta 8, Barbo 6, Delarama 6, Fernandez 4, Guiab 2, Pineda 2.

Star Water 69 – Manalo 16, W. Capalad 8, De Dios 8, Moises 9, Vinas 8, Rivera 5, Raymond 5, Santos 4, Achas 2, Gomez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-22, 45-37, 72-54, 95-69.

WONG

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Wong's new record in the 100m breaststroke was posted on May 30 during the second day of the competition held at the Guy Verlaguet pool in Dumbéa. He timed in at 1:07.29 in the finals of the 100m breaststroke race, eclipsing the 1:07.66 he logged on Aug. 16, 2011 in the 2011 Summer Universiade in Shenzhen, China. The new record is not yet official and has to be certified by the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation.

The University of Hawaii swimmer qualified for the finals of the 100m breaststroke after placing fifth in the prelims with a time of 1:08.60. New Caledonia's Thomas Dahlia had the fastest qualifying time at 1:04.49 and also won in the finals (1:03.27). In the finals, Wong placed fifth, beating qualifiers from the host, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea.

The 21-year-old Wong started his campaign in the 16-nation tournament via the 50m butterfly race where he timed in at 26.91 seconds, finished at No. 14 out of 24 swimmers, and advanced to the B Finals. In the finals, Wong had a faster time of 26.82 seconds to place third. PNG Olympian Ryan Pini ruled the event (A Finals) with a time of 24.41 seconds, beating Australia's Daniel Lester (24.45 seconds).

After his record swim in the second day of the tournament that ran from May 28 to June 2, Wong returned to the pool last Thursday for the 50m breaststroke race where this time he moved into the A Finals. The Marianas High School graduate completed the preliminary race in 31.97 seconds and then swam faster in the finale with his 31.54 seconds (sixth place).

Wong also joined the prelims in the 100m butterfly event last Thursday and submitted 1:01.31 (ranked No. 10 out of 17 swimmers) to qualify for the B Finals. In the B Finals, Wong almost broke the one-minute barrier, as he recorded 1:00.50 and finish second behind New Caledonia's Theo Jambet (59.70 seconds).

In the final day of the swimming competition last Friday, the 2010 Micronesian Games' top male athlete joined two more races and also figured in the finals. He submitted 2:10.72 in the 200m individual medley prelims for fifth place overall (out of 19 swimmers) and then logged 2:11.34 in the A Finals to retain the No. 5 spot and beat swimmers from New Caledonia, Hawaii, and PNG. Kenneth To of Australia (2:01.35) ruled the event.

For his last race—the 200m breaststroke—Wong clocked in at 2:38.61 in the preliminary to place seventh and qualify in the finals. In the finale, Wong chopped off more than 12 seconds from his qualifying time after tallying 2:26.30. Nicholas Schafer of Australia (2:16.67) won the event.

GEON

From Page 28

group that utilized a net scoring system.

In the Senior Flight, Mori Toshiyuki snuck past last year's winner Edward Manibusan. Toshiyuki, who was also the closest to the pin winner on hole No. 6 with an approach that stopped just 3 1/2 inches from the cup, led a field of a dozen at the turn with a 36 and grinded out a 41 on the back side to finish with a 77 raw score. Just one stroke back was Manibusan, who started with a 38 and finished with a 40, while Manny Mangarero (40-41) rounded out the third spot with an 81.

In the B Flight, Young Kee Hong bested 25 other golfers with his 79. Hong worked a 39 on the front and followed it up with a 40 to win by one stroke over Kyuyeon Kim, who settled for a 44 on the front side and battled back with a 36 after the turn. Two strokes behind Kim was third placer Carl Hocog (40 and 42).

C Flight's Luther Taylor topped a field of 19 with his 86. He jotted down a 42 on the front and managed a 44 on the back, two strokes ahead of Jack Salas (44 and 44), while young up-and-comer lady golfer, Lucy Park, (53-40) took third prize with her 93.

The Top 3 placers in each flight received trophies and cash prizes; $500 went to first $300 to second; and $200 to third.

Meanwhile, other closest to the pin winners were B Flight's Jhun Calma (12'6") on hole No. 8 and A Flight's Alex Sablan (4'2") on No. 12, while A Flight's Ned Norita won longest drive honors on No. 15 and Yi took the most accurate drive award on No. 4.

HI-FIVE

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and DeMolay kept possession. Third, Hi-Five shut down the baseline on Factor, who was forced to give up the ball to the wrong hands and coach Eric Atalig's wards melted the clock to secure their debut win.

Frank Macahito top-scored for Hi-Five with 23 points and was the lone player on his team to have double figures. Factor was also the only DeMolay player to score in twin digits, as Dae Min Jeon had only nine markers.

Jeon made all his points in the second canto to give DeMolay its biggest lead, but he went out of the court and missed the first seven minutes of the third, allowing Hi-Five to recover and tie the game, 41-all, entering the final canto.

Hi-Five finally grabbed the lead, 45-44, off M.J. Aldan's long jumper, but Factor and Ogumoro led a 9-0 run, for a 53-45 lead. Hi-Five then regrouped in the last four minutes of the game behind the baskets of Don Hocket and Frank Macahito, while DeMolay took forced shots to collapse in the end.

Meanwhile, two more U20 games were played last Saturday and results will be published later this week.

U14
DYS 104, Hi-Five 39

The UFO Docomo Pacific Cup resumed after two-weeklong break with a one-sided U14 game won by DYS/SMF against Hi-Five/VisMinda.

DYS controlled the match right out of the gate, leading at 16-5, and continued to pull away, as its starters and bench players proved to be too much for Hi-Five.

DJ Ong started out for DYS and erupted for 33 points, while three others also finished in double figures, and five combined for 30 markers, just nine short of Hi-Five's total output. C.J. Morales added 17, while Adrian De Luna and Sam Darag contributed 11 and 10, respectively, for DYS' second win in as many games.

Jordan Butcher and Jethro Cruz scored 14 each in Hi-Five's debut.

First Game

DYS/SMF 104 – Ong 33, Morales 17, De Luna 11, Darag 10, Espinosa 9, Iglecias 7, Atmana 6, Venezuela 4, Subang 4.

Hi-Five/VisMinda 39 – Butcher 14, Cruz 14, Rangamar 7, Diyco 2, Pangelinan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-5, 39-14, 67-18, 104-39.

Second Game

Hi-Five/POWER 58 – F. Macahito 23, Urbano 7, Cabaltica 6, Aldan 6, G. Macahito 5, Hocket 4, Cristobal 4, Sapo 1.

DeMolay/Kyokusenkai 57 – Factor 10, Jeon 9, Ogumoro 8, Leong 6, Bondoc 5, Yap 4, Borja 4, Gotengco 2, Mendiola 2, Mamaril 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-10, 28-35, 41-41, 58-57.

DISTRICT

From Page 28

ence room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, committee members agreed that despite the $14,500 the Department of Finance allotted for the June 11 to 13 event, they are still $10,000 under budget after tallying the costs for transportation, umpires and statisticians, and various equipment (balls, uniforms and scorebooks), in addition to providing food for over 120 people.

"There has been a reduction across the board and we did not receive the initial set amount of $16,000," said Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. vice president and Rep. Ray Yumul of the allotted funds.

The group would have still ended up significantly short aside from the 9.1 percent reduction. The committee has sent out over 70 donation letters to various recipients and is welcoming any additional support.

To throw in another curveball, CNMI District Administrator James Ada said at the meeting that the tournament can not be postponed any longer as the registration deadline for the Asia Pacific Regional Championship for the Junior League is set for June 14.

This year's District tournament will have four teams from Saipan and Rota. Tinian has entered only three squads and the visiting groups paid for their own airfare and hotel accommodations.

Some visiting members are expected to arrive as early as Saturday and the series can only be extended to Thursday at the latest in the occurrence of bad weather. Organizers are hoping to play the matches as scheduled and have the finals on June 13. If no championship games are played, the teams with the best records on the final day will be awarded the titles.

Since there are only two Big League teams, Saipan and Rota will play a best-of-three series, starting on June 11 at 5pm, following the opening ceremony at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Then its round robin doubleheaders on tap for everyone the next day until closing night on Wednesday as the Major, Junior and Senior leaguers all vie for top position.

Meanwhile, any interested sponsors or supporters can contact CNMI District committee president Mike Borja at 285-1980 if they wish to donate.

The Week in Sports

Champions crowned

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Last week was coronation time for champion teams.

In the Micronesian Basketball Tournament, Guam swept the boys and girls crowns, demolishing Palau, 100-58 and beating CNMI 1, 70-56.

In the 2012 Saipan Little League Baseball, the Red Sox topped the Junior League, while the Ol'Aces and Hustlers, reigned supreme in the Senior and Big League divisions, respectively. The Red Sox took the title after pulling off an upset over pennant champion Hawaiya Technologies, Inc.-Ol'Aces in the finals 8-7; the Ol'Aces defeated the Falcons in the Senior League finale, 11-7; and the Hustlers shut out the Ol'Aces, 6-0, in the Big League title showdown.

In the 30th CNMI May Masters Tournament, veteran bowler Diana Camacho took the women's tiara, while Percy Omechelang secured the men's title. Camacho prevailed over Gloria Omechelang, Gina Sablan, Yho Villavicencio (2,024), Carol McKenzie, while Percy edged former May Masters winners Robert Talavera and Alex Castro.

In the NMIFA youth league, Shirley's Coffee Shop and MP United Silver claimed the girls and boys U15 championships, while Matansa U12 ruled the FA Cup (for girls U15 and boys U12).

Sharing the limelight with the champion teams and individuals were CNMI swimmers who represented the Commonwealth well in the 2012 Guam Championships in Hagatna and winners in the 2012 Micronesian Junior Tennis Championships

Included on the list were Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Miku Tammy and brothers Ryuto and Kaito Yanai and Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova, Taiga Sato, and Kento Akimaru.

Tammy crushed four marks in the girls 9 to 10 age group, while Ryuto and Kaito reset records in the boys U8 and 11 to 12 divisions, respectively. All three Tsunami Saipan swimmers also took the championship in their respective age groups, while SSC's Sato, Chentsova, and Akimaru finished third in their divisions.

In tennis, U18's Christian Miller and Thea Minor, U15's Chris Cajigan and Negahr Rastguiy, U12's Clayton Izuka and Julia Ishikawa and U10's Catherine Atalig and Kevin Kim made up the Micronesian tournament champions' circle.

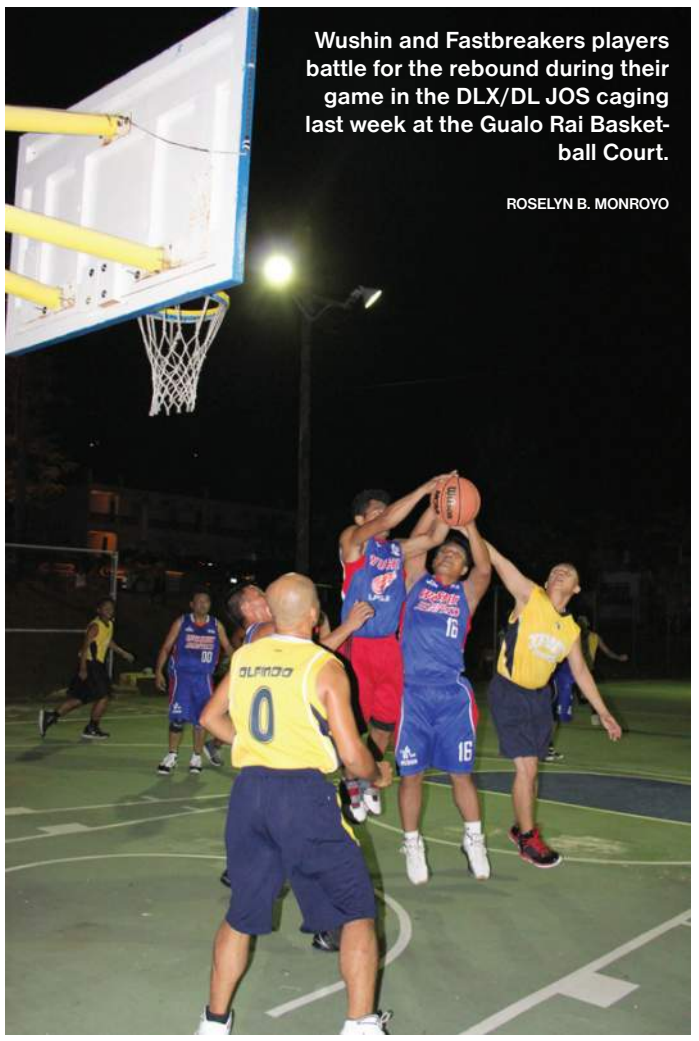
Meanwhile, other competitions on Saipan continued with the DLX/DL JOS and Blue Haus basketball leagues having its regular season games and the IT&E doubles and singles badminton tournament continuing with its preliminary matches.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Red Sox' Jerald Cabrera gets ready to bat during their Junior League title game against the Ol'Aces at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the MP United Silver show the No. 5 sign after winning their fifth straight boys U15 crown in the NMIFA youth league last week at the Oleai Sports Complex.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players and coaches of Matansa U12 pose with their championship trophy after beating Tan Holdings in the FA Cup last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Top 6 finishers in the men's division of the 30th CNMI May Masters Tournament pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony last week at the Shirle y's Coffee Shop in Susupe.



Wushin and Fastbreakers players battle for the rebound during their game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Roger Vales stretches for a return during his and Babes Cielo's mixed doubles B game against Jexler Caranto and Kim Boranah in the ITE badminton tournament at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Negahr Rastguiy goes for a baseline return against Carol Lee during their U15 match in the 2012 Micronesian Junior Tennis Championships last week at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Durant powers Thunder past Spurs, 109-103

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Sports

Player apologizes; Sharapova advances to fourth

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Wong resets 100m breaststroke mark

Rezne Wong, seen here in a competition in Hawaii this year, reset the CNMI record in the 100m breaststroke during the 9th Oceania Swimming Championships in New Caledonia last Wednesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI swimmer Rezne Wong had a fruitful stint in last week's 9th Oceania Swimming Championships in New Caledonia as he reset the Commonwealth's record in the 100m breaststroke event and made it to the finals of six individual races.

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Geon Ju Lee wins HANMI tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

HANMI
HOTEL ASSOCIATION NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Geon Ju Lee saved an even round to come out victorious in the Championship Flight of the 11th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic held at the Marianas Country Club last Saturday.

Lee birdied the first hole with three swings and held it steady through the front nine for a 1-under par 35 at the turn. He remained on pace against seven other players on his way back and even birdied the par-5 hole No. 13, but stumbled just before pulling into the clubhouse on the par-4 hole No. 17 with a double-bogey to settle for an even round of 72.

Still, Lee won by four strokes over Gi Young Kim, who started out with a 40 and finished strong with an even 36 for a 4-over par 76. Last year's runner-up, Jeff Taylor, also penciled in a 40 on the front and finished with a 38 for a 78 raw tally, good for third place.

Notably, Kim also won closest to the pin honors on hole No. 16 with an approach that rested six feet from the cup. In addition, last year's champion Jason Yi (38 and 42) finished only fifth this year with an even 80.

In the A Flight, Steve Jang topped a field of 15, winning by three strokes. He birdied the first hole, but settled for a bogey just two holes later before seasawing again with a birdie on the par-4 No. 5 and managing a 1-under par 35 at midpoint. He endured three bogeys on the backside, however, and finished with a gross of 74, but never really heard any footsteps.

Kuribayashi Tsukasa recorded a 40 on the front and came in with a 37 on the back for second place, while Ralph Yumul (38 and 41) accrued a 79 card for a third place showing. Yumul came out on the winning side of a tie with Ko Eui Suk (42 and37).

Ladies Flight's Byun Soon Sun started out with a 46 and finished the back with a 42 for a gross score of 88 and net 71.2 to edge Su Jung Lee's 72.8. Lee turned in a pair of 43s before the handicap adjustment.

Notably, Leina Kim turned in the lowest round of the day with a pair of 35s for an 2-under par 70 gross, but was entered in the Ladies Flight and settled for third in the low net category. Kim finished with a 73.6 net, tying Lee Young He, but won the tiebreak. The Ladies Flight was the only

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Geon Ju Lee, center, accepts the Championship Flight first place trophy and the rest of his prize package from HANMI chairman Nick Nishikawa, left, during the dinner awards banquet for the 11th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament held last Saturday night at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort. Looking on is third finisher Jeff Taylor.

Hi-Five slips past DeMolay in UFO caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hi-Five/POWER won its debut game in a thrilling fashion, as it escaped past DeMolay/Kyokusenkai, 58-57, in the first game in the U20 division of the 2012 UFO Docomo Pacific Cup last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hi-Five trailed by as much as 10 points in the second period, 25-35, and was still behind by four in the last one minute of the match, 51-55, but managed to steal the game behind the clutch baskets of siblings Frank and Gary Macahito in the final 25 seconds of the game.

Frank's undergoal stab moved Hi-Five within two, 55-57, and he had a chance to slice the lead to one after drawing a foul, too on Michael Bondoc. However, Frank missed the bonus shot, but fortunately, older brother, Gary was there to beat two Demolay players for the rebound. Gary then went up for a shot, made the basket plus a foul from Richard Mendiola, and drilled the free throw to put Hi-Five in the lead, 58-57.

DeMolay had 22.3 seconds to map out a winning play, but Hi-Five stood its ground on three occasions to complete the come-from-behind win. First, Frank Macahito almost stole the ball from the backcourt in the inbound play, 14.7 seconds left in the match. Second, Hi-Five challenged Factor's drive before the ball went out to the baseline

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Hi-Five player fakes off the defense of two DeMolay players during the first game in the U20 division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

District tournament still $10K short of budget

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Host Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. will still need $10,000 to hold the 2012 CNMI Little League District Tournament next week at the Oleai Sports Complex.

During an emergency meeting last Friday at the confer-

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Members of the organizing committee of the 2012 CNMI Little League District Tournament have a discussion during the emergency meeting last Friday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.